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November 2001

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THE *World Soccer* Awards, now in their 19th year, are with us again, and I hope you take the opportunity to register your vote. The Awards receive coverage around the world but, ironically, the place where they are not taken as seriously as they should be is here in the UK.

The attitude of the mainstream British sports press towards European and world football never ceases to amaze me. I find it astonishing that, on a Monday morning, you cannot read a decent round-up of the weekend's action in Europe, let alone match reports from the major games.

In the ever-expanding sports sections, we get coverage of women's football, non-league football, not to mention the opinions of the *fashionista* who have muscled in on the game in recent years. English football has accepted foreign players, foreign coaches and foreign tactics. But sports editors, with one or two notable exceptions, continue to insult the intelligence of their readers by refusing to look beyond these shores.

I am not bitter about this state of affairs, just a little perplexed. And it means, of course, that with the World Cup looming, *World Soccer* is needed more than ever before.

**Gavin Hamilton, Editor** (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

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# WORLD SOCCER AWARDS 2001

## Your chance to vote in the WORLD SOCCER annual awards

THIS is your chance to take part in *World Soccer's* annual vote to select the World Player, Manager and Team of the Year. This year, the vote promises to be closer than ever.

Last year, Luis Figo narrowly beat Zinedine Zidane to the player award. Figo and Zidane were the outstanding players at Euro 2000 and their votes reflected that. This year the field is wide open.

Both Figo and Zidane are again among the contenders but could be overshadowed by Real Madrid team-mate Raul. The Spain striker is one of the few players to have performed outstandingly on three levels – in the Spanish League, Champions League and World Cup qualifiers.

Michael Owen must be fancied after his hat-trick in England's 5-1 defeat of Germany in Munich, as well as his goals for Liverpool in the UEFA Cup, FA Cup Final and European Supercup. David Beckham is also in the frame for his strong performances after taking on the captaincy of England, capped by his last-minute goal against Greece that earned his side their ticket to Japan/Korea 2002.

Bayern Munich captain Oliver Kahn is an obvious contender after his match-winning performance in the Champions League Final, although no goalkeeper has ever won the award. Rivaldo, the 1999 winner, almost single-handedly took Barcelona into the Champions League, while Gaizka Mendieta, now with Lazio, was the driving force behind Valencia's run to the Champions League Final.

Francesco Totti and Gabriel Batistuta were leading figures in Roma's first Italian League triumph since 1983, while across town at Lazio, Hernan Crespo finished as Serie A top scorer and fired Argentina to the World Cup finals.

The usual suspects line up for the World Manager award. Ottmar Hitzfeld guided Bayern to a Bundesliga and Champions League double, becoming only the second man to win the European Cup with different clubs.

Sven Goran Eriksson's impact since his appointment as England coach deserves recognition, as does Gerard Houllier's feat in steering Liverpool to a League Cup, FA Cup and UEFA Cup treble. Marcelo Bielsa's stewardship of Argentina and Carlos Bianchi's achievement in retaining the Libertadores Cup for Boca Juniors are also worthy of honours.

Team of the Year? Bayern, Liverpool, Boca Juniors, Copa America winners Colombia and Argentina are in the frame. And how about Senegal, through to their first World Cup finals?

All these players, managers and teams... and many more. The decision is yours.

● You can also vote at our website: www.worldsoccer.com

Postal votes are acceptable ONLY on this form (or a photocopy), complete with your name and address. Please use CAPITAL letters and send the form, so that it arrives by November 26 at the latest, to:

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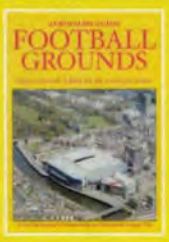

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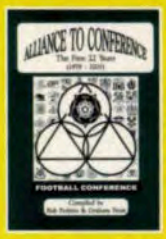

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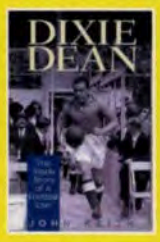

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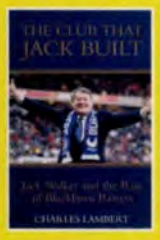

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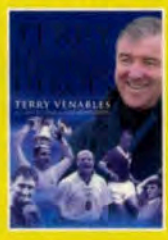

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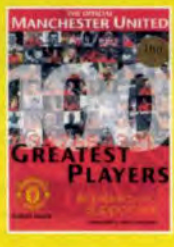

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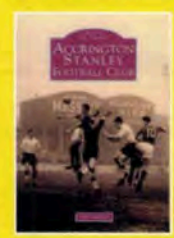

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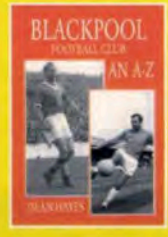

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● 09/09/01...Gordon Strachan quits as manager of struggling Coventry City after five years in charge

● 11/09/01...In the game of the week in the Champions League, Luis Figo scores one and sets up Real Madrid's winner in a 2-1 victory over Roma in the Stadio Olimpico

● 12/09/01...Sepp Blatter says FIFA will allow referees to move countries and officiate in different leagues

● 12/09/01...Ronaldo is scheduled to make his Serie A comeback for Internazionale against Venezia

# Q & A: Alessandro Nesta

## The Lazio and Italy defender talks to Keir Radnedge

Future uncertain...Alessandro Nesta

TIMES may be changing shortly for Alessandro Nesta. His name is inextricably linked with his only club, Lazio. But that may not last forever – or even beyond the end of this season.

Now 25, Nesta can look back on a career with the Rome club which he began as a ballboy in the Stadio Olimpico. He was a youth player at Lazio – and first made headlines even before he played in Serie A after the training ground tackle which once broke Paul Gascoigne's leg.

Dino Zoff was the coach then who launched Nesta and the player was delighted when Zoff returned as boss this spring after Sven Goran Eriksson's dismissal. Now a change is on the cards for Nesta after Zoff's second departure, last month (see Italy, page 51).

The Italian and Spanish media were full of speculation earlier this year that Nesta had been lined up by Real Madrid. The deal was delayed, it seems, partly because Nesta felt he owed a debt of loyalty to Zoff. The two had worked together not only at Lazio but also in Italy's Euro 2000 campaign. Now, all bets are off on Nesta staying in Rome.

**It's inevitable that speculation will start again about your future. Will you be with Lazio at the end of the season?**
We cannot think even that far ahead. The only targets we have at this club are to improve our form and our morale. We have to concentrate on each new match, both in Serie A and the Champions League. Long-term consequences we can think about later. That's not the priority.

**How important has Dino Zoff been to your career?**
Zoff has spent nine years of his footballing life at Lazio and I have spent eight with the club, so we have a lot in common. We have come through a lot together, some of it good and some not so good. Of course, he has not always been coach – he was also chief executive for a while. But he has always been a point of reference for me at Lazio. What has happened is very unfortunate. But that is football. Coaches do change. It's not a matter for the players. We have to devote ourselves to representing the club whoever picks the team.

**Was it a mistake for Lazio to get rid of Eriksson? After all, you had won just about everything with him.**
Again, that's history. Eriksson was very different to most Italian coaches in style and temperament. Maybe that was one of the secrets of his success. He stood a bit further back, so to speak. He got on with his job and trusted us to get on with ours. He also trusted us to make sure we had the right lifestyle. I think he believed that if you get your priorities right in life, then you will get them right in football terms. It doesn't surprise me he is doing so well with England.

**Who is the most difficult centre-forward you have come up against?**
The worst experience I ever had was playing against Ronaldo when we faced Internazionale in the 1998 UEFA Cup Final in Paris. He's an incredible player. I have watched that game on video so many times since then, trying to work out what I did wrong. We lost 3-0 but I don't think now it was my fault. Ronaldo was simply unstoppable. He is so quick he makes everyone else look as if they are standing still. I hope he really gets fit now because Ronaldo, in full flow, is the most spectacular sight in football.

**After Ronaldo?**
Pippo Inzaghi never gives you a moment's rest. You only have to brush against him and he falls over. Then, he always plays right up on the edge of offside. He must be as difficult for a referee's assistant as he is for a defender. Gabriel Batistuta is equally awkward, for different reasons – and Jan Koller, who's just joined Dortmund from Anderlecht.

**What are their qualities?**
Batistuta always gives you a good game. It's a great battle with him. I think I have won

# The month in pictures

● 13/09/01...France coach Roger Lemerre rejects complaints from clubs over the forthcoming friendly against Australia

● 14/09/01...Fabio Capello hints that he is interested in becoming the next manager of Manchester United

● 15/09/01...Milan complete the signing of Galatasaray's Turkish midfielder Umit Davala and hint that Monaco striker Marco Simone could be returning to the club

some, while he has scored a few goals at my expense. He's not as quick as Inzaghi but he's sharper around goal. As for Koller, he is difficult to control physically.

**Batistuta has criticised Italian football as being unbalanced – that victory goes not necessarily to the best but to the most underhand. Is he right?**
I have played in Serie A for seven and a half years and I can put my hand on my heart and say that I have never come across anything odd. When I have finished on the losing side it's usually because we deserved it; occasionally you can blame bad luck but nothing deceitful. If I had come across anything I would have told the authorities. Even doping. That business – with the suspensions of players like our Fernando Couto – has been a terrible mistake.

**You are compared with Francesco Totti at Roma because you are both local boys who have always played for one club. Will it stay that way?**
We have the same problems. It's not always easy when you go out. It's not our own fans who give us problems but the others! You learn to deal with it but it's not ideal. It restricts what you can do, where you can go. I suppose in another city it might be different – but I have enough to worry about right now playing for Lazio.

The ESM Golden Shoe is back, with a couple of minor changes. Only players from the top five leagues in the UEFA rankings (Spain, Italy, Germany, France and England) will have their goal tally multiplied by 2. All other players' goal tallies will be multiplied by 1 or 1.5, depending on the strength of their league. Also, any player who plays in a 2001 summer league (eg Norway) and then moves to a 2001-02 winter league (eg Spain) will not have the two tallies combined when determining his ESM Golden Shoe standing. From this season, the tallies will be counted separately. This will avoid a repeat of the case of John Carew, who first played for Rosenborg and then for Valencia, thus appearing in many more matches than other players in the ESM Golden Shoe standings.

**ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 05.10.01**

| pos | name | team | goals | factor | pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maksim Gruznov | Trans Narva (Est) | 26 | 1 | 26 |
| 2 | Dmitriy Vyazmikin | Torpedo Moscow (Rus) | 16 | 1.5 | 24 |
| 3 | Harald Brattbakk | Rosenborg (Nor) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| | Clayton Zane | Lillestrom (Nor) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| 5 | Remigijus Pocius | FBK Kaunas (Lit) | 22 | 1 | 22 |
| 6 | Thorstein Helstad | Brann Bergen (Nor) | 14 | 1.5 | 21 |
| | Andrei Kirlov | Tallina VMK (Est) | 21 | 1 | 21 |
| | Mihails Miholaps | Skonto Riga (Lat) | 21 | 1 | 21 |
| 9 | Stanislav Dubrovin | Dinaburg (Lat) | 20 | 1 | 20 |
| 10 | Ronald Brunmayr | Grazer AK (Aut) | 13 | 1.5 | 19.5 |
| | Frode Johnsen | Rosenborg (Nor) | 13 | 1.5 | 19.5 |
| | Erik Nevland | Viking (Nor) | 13 | 1.5 | 19.5 |
| | James Obiorah | Lokomotiv M'cow (Rus) | 13 | 1.5 | 19.5 |
| | Magnus Powell | Lillestrom (Nor) | 13 | 1.5 | 19.5 |
| 15 | Helgi L Petersen | Gl Gotu (Far) | 19 | 1 | 19 |
| | Paulus Roiha | HJK Helsinki (Fin) | 19 | 1 | 19 |
| 17 | Jostein Flo | Stromsgodset (Nor) | 12 | 1.5 | 18 |
| | Christian Gimenez | Lugano/Basle (Swi) | 12 | 1.5 | 18 |
| | Andreas Hermansson | Hammarby (Swe) | 12 | 1.5 | 18 |
| | Aleksandr Katasonov | Metalurgs (Lat) | 18 | 1 | 18 |
| | Johan Paulsson | Orebro (Swe) | 12 | 1.5 | 18 |
| | Serghei Rogaciov | Saturn (Rus) | 12 | 1.5 | 18 |
| | Stefan Selakovic | Halmstads (Swe) | 12 | 1.5 | 18 |

**For the latest standings, updated twice weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com**

## NOTES AND QUOTES

**"You wouldn't think that something so sick would come into someone's mind."**
*Claudio Reyna of Rangers says he saw a Celtic fan imitating a plane flying into the World Trade Center during a recent Old Firm game.*

**"We did not let the national team down. Politicians are to blame for making us travel to Israel at such a delicate time."**
*Walter Kogler of FC Tirol explains why nine Austrian players refused to go to Israel for a World Cup qualifier.*

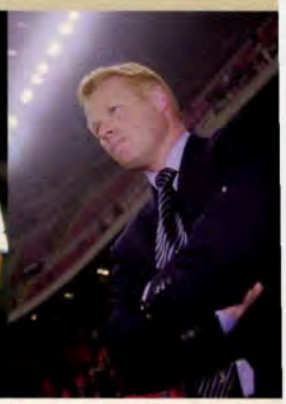
**"We have kept the same legs as last season but maybe not the same heads."**
*Nantes president Kleber Bobin on why the French champions find themselves at the foot of the table.*

Nantes nightmare...Kleber Bobin

● 17/09/01...Besiktas coach Christoph Daum admits he is one game from the sack after a 1-0 home defeat to Istanbulspor

● 18/09/01...Aston Villa react angrily to reports that David Ginola is prepared to drop his legal action against the club in exchange for a pay-off or a regular starting place

● 19/09/01...Dino Zoff is sacked as coach of Lazio after a 3-1 home defeat by Nantes which as good as ends the Italian club's Champions League campaign



● 20/09/01...Ronald Koeman threatens to quit as coach of struggling Vitesse Arnhem

# Softly, softly Jacquet ready to call time

## The 1998 World Cup-winning coach plans to step down as France's technical director

French renaissance leader...Aime Jacquet

THE fan in the street would probably be hard pushed to come up with the name of the coach who guided France to the greatest achievement in their football history.

But Aime Jacquet has not used the 1998 World Cup as a springboard into the cult of personality so alluring to so many of his fellow managers and coaches. Quite the reverse.

Almost as soon as the Champs Elysees parade was over Jacquet slipped out through the back door and into the crowd. He would have stepped even further into anonymity had he had it his own way. Instead, he was persuaded by French federation president Noel Le Graet to become national technical director to ensure – in Le Graet's words – that "he protects his own legacy".

Indeed, given half a chance, Jacquet would swap all the glamour of managing the World Cup winners for the chance to go back to being a player. Not that he was particularly outstanding. Jacquet was a hard-working, effective midfielder who laboured in the engine-room of the outstanding Saint-Etienne team of the 1970s.

Jacquet says: "We had an exceptional team. We won the championship seven times in 10 years and reached the Champions Cup Final [losing 1-0 to Bayern Munich at Hampden]. In my dreams I would exchange my entire coaching career – including winning the World Cup – to go back to those days as a player. I used to tell my players that during the 1998 World Cup finals. I wanted them to appreciate that they had the greatest job in the world and that they should make the most of it."

Since that World Cup success, French football has not looked back, and Jacquet, without any personal edge, wants it to stay that way. He is proud of what has been achieved, not out of ego but out of professional satisfaction. Not that the message has gone far enough, in his opinion.

Jacquet says: "What still surprises me when I go abroad – as in Argentina at the World Youth Cup – is to find people think what happened to us in 1998 was a one-off. It was nothing like that. We had worked long and hard for many years to develop the conditions from which the World Cup could be won.

"Everyone wants to know our philosophy and our method. My present role as national technical director, although it means concentrating on French football, involves exchanging ideas with as many football people as possible. There are no secrets in modern football. It's no good thinking you can cut yourself off. We do not think we know it all just because we are champions of both the world and Europe. We can learn from other countries."

The French football revolution began in 1988 when the FFF launched the national technical centre at Clairefontaine. It is no secret location; quite the opposite. Jacquet is happy to welcome coaches from around the world. He says: "It's all about transparency. Similarly, we want our coaches to study developments in Italy, Spain, Brazil and Argentina. Then we pass those lessons on to our colleagues back home. This is why our coaches are popular abroad."

Arsene Wenger and Gerard Houllier in England, with Arsenal and Liverpool, Philippe Troussier with World Cup co-hosts Japan – all represent to Jacquet a part of the present success story of French football. Indeed, the man who has worked only in France has eagerly encouraged his colleagues to work abroad.

"I have always told them that, for the sake of French football, we need to be open to new ideas and experiences," says Jacquet. "I am in permanent contact with foreign federations and clubs and if I can place one of the coaches I'm happy to do so. It's as if they are all part of my family."

But the patriarch has had enough. Next summer he will step down, his 'mission' completed.

As Jacquet says: "The timing seems appropriate. Football works on this four-year cycle. I lived one between the World Cups of 1994 and 1998. Now another is coming to an end. It's time for someone else."

*Keir Radnedge*

# The month in pictures

● 20/09/01...Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos is reported to be applying for dual Spanish/Brazilian citizenship

● 21/09/01...Former Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni takes charge of his first training session after succeeding Dino Zoff at Lazio

● 23/09/01...Juventus remain top of Serie A despite being held to a 0-0 draw by Lecce. Milan move up into second after beating Lazio 2-0

# Q & A: Edwin Van der Sar

## Holland's goalkeeper talks to Kevin Palmer

**Was joining Fulham a gamble?**
They are not the club I would have expected to join after leaving Juventus, but I feel good about the move. Fulham explained they were starting out on a project and have big ambitions. It is always great to be at the centre of something new and exciting.

**Was coach Jean Tigana a major factor in your decision?**
I think so. He has great enthusiasm for the game. He said he wanted me to be one of the central players in his team, and that was no longer the case for me at Juventus.

**What do you expect from this season?**
When a club comes into the top division for the first time in many years the first aim has to be consolidation. We will not win the championship this season; the manager knows that as well. But there is real ambition to reach that level in the next couple of years.

**Do you have any thoughts on leaving Juventus?**
It was sad to leave on bad terms. We had some disagreements in the end and my final few weeks in Turin were difficult. One moment they are saying you are very much a part of it all, then the next they sign another keeper in Gianluigi Buffon. Maybe the people at the top made the decision, I don't know, but it was done in a bad way.

**The critics claim your form had dipped.**
In my two seasons with the club I conceded 45 goals, less than any other keeper in Serie A, so I can be proud of that. I was happy in Italy and did not expect to leave, but that is football.

**Did you consider staying and fighting for your place?**
I could have just sat on the bench, happy to be earning well, but that is not my style. Also, I wanted to make sure I held on to my place in the Dutch national team. The time had come for me to leave, and the chance to play in England was too good to turn down.

Change of direction...Van der Sar

**What do you think of Holland's World Cup exit?**
No team has a right to play in the World Cup finals and our results show we don't deserve to be there. It was a big shock to all of us and there was a strange feeling in the dressing-room after we lost against Ireland in Dublin. Of course, we have many great players with lots of talent and we wanted to play on the biggest stage.

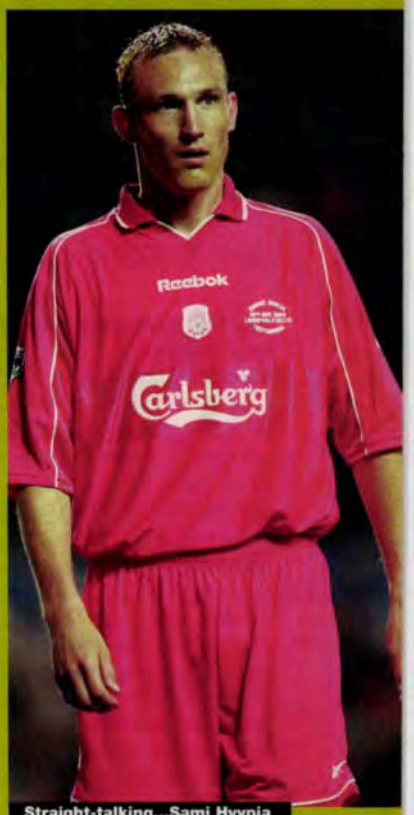
**Is it worse for you because Fulham are not in Europe?**
That is true. I realised when I left Juventus we would not be playing European football this season and it may take some time to get to that level. Everyone wants to be in the Champions League and that is not the position Fulham are in at the moment. But [Holland coach] Louis Van Gaal says the Premiership is one of the strongest leagues in the world, and he doesn't have any problem with me playing for Fulham.

**Can you explain Dutch players' success in English football?**
Our mentality is suited to the game in this country. We have also produced players with great ability and a determination to succeed that you need in the Premiership. Everyone wants to experience English football at some point because it has so many qualities. The stadiums are packed each week and the crowd is always so passionate. I wanted to be a part of that.

**Is Ruud Van Nistelrooy the next Dutch world superstar?**
I will be delighted if Ruud succeeds because the last year has been a nightmare for him. That knee injury was so tough and he needed to be strong mentally to come through and complete his move to Manchester United. Knowing Ruud, I'm not surprised to see him back as good as ever, and he will be a great signing for United.

## NOTES AND QUOTES

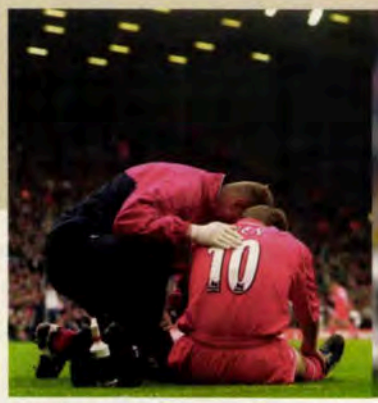
**"It's silly to see them going down, pretending to be hurt, then getting up 30 seconds later. I don't like it, but it's in their blood. Players are taught from an early age in southern Europe."**
*Liverpool's Sami Hyypia doing his bit for international diplomacy after facing Boavista in the Champions League.*




Straight-talking...Sami Hyypia

**"I was completely depressed and felt alone and desperate. I even thought about suicide."**
*A year after his drugs scandal, former Bayer Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum talks of the 'worst year of his life'.*

**"After wearing the Italian shirt for 15 years, it is not an easy decision to call it a day. I just hope I can resist it once I leave the international scene."**
*Italy skipper Paolo Maldini says he will retire from the national team after next year's World Cup.*



● 22/09/01...Michael Owen tears a hamstring in Liverpool's 1-0 win over Spurs putting him out of England's World Cup qualifier against Greece

● 24/09/01...Bolton are the latest club to be linked with Internazionale's unsettled Turkish striker, Hakan Sukur

● 25/09/01...Italian club Brescia sign Spanish international midfielder Josep Guardiola, who had been a free agent since leaving Barcelona in the summer

● 26/09/01...Argentina announce that Maradona's No 10 shirt will be 'retired' from international duty

# Q & A: David Trezeguet

## Juve's young French striker talks to Dominique Antognoni

**Has this been your best start to a season?**
No, because when I played for Monaco I used to start the season by scoring a lot of goals. But as far as Juve are concerned, it has been a better start for me. A year ago I was new here, I didn't really know my team-mates, the team's style of play or the city itself. It's different now. I am still learning about Juve, though. It's a colossal club, with 11 million fans in Italy alone, and it has a long history. It has its own way of doing things. And just look at the players – Del Piero, Buffon, Thuram, Davids; and then there was Zidane too. Of the 25 Juve players here now, 17 are internationals – that's impressive.

**What type of Juve will we be seeing this season?**
A more spontaneous and less technical side. With Zizou leaving, it was obvious we would need to change our style. We have more fighting spirit, partly thanks to [coach Marcello] Lippi, who has brought his passion to Juve following a spell at Inter that wasn't exactly exciting for him. We're strong, and our start to the championship and in the Champions League shows that.

**There was speculation this summer about Christian Vieri joining from Inter and you going the other way. How did that affect you?**
It was a very important time for me, and I think it has been the main reason why I have started the season so well. The club considered me to be indispensable. For a player, that sort of trust and good faith is pure gold.

**Many players get out of Italian football because of its extreme stress. Have the pressures affected you at all?**
Football is a phenomenon in Italy. It's all they talk about. It's crazy! After a game, I try to switch off completely, I try to be on my own and I don't even switch on the television.

**Do you get together with your idol, Gabriel Batistuta, at all these days?**
We only manage to meet before a game.

**Why do you look up to him above all others?**
When he was young, he worked like crazy. He wasn't that successful at first, but he never let it get him down and just tried even harder. When I saw his willpower as he got possession of the ball and took on his opponents I was astonished. I learned from him that the most important thing is to have a winner's mentality.

**What is your best quality?**
Like Bati, I have the will to win. Let's say that when times are bad, I am able to act as though times are good. And when things are going as well as they are at present, I am also able to bear it in mind that there will be dodgy times ahead at some point or other.

**What aspect of your game would you like to improve?**
Definitely my fitness. If I don't work hard during training I can have problems on the pitch.

**Does it worry you that you make only occasional starts for the French national team?**
No, because France have won the World Cup and the European Cup fielding just one striker. I can put myself in the coach's shoes and ask: why change things if it works so well?

Learning curve...Trezeguet is gradually coming to terms with life at Juventus

**France have been playing a number of friendlies. How useful are these?**
Fairly. It's not always easy to get fired up about friendlies but we've missed out on playing in the World Cup qualifying games, since we qualified by winning the trophy! We'll need to get more focused as the finals approach.

**But the world champions are being asked to play against the likes of Chile and Algeria.**
It's all to do with the politics within the federation. What can we do about it? We had to travel for 17 hours to play against Chile. But it's all part of being a footballer.

# The month in pictures

● 26/09/01...Arsenal's Thierry Henry is involved in scuffles with the referee after the 1-0 Champions League defeat by Panathinaikos in Athens

● 27/09/01...Brazilian striker Romario denies a claim by Italian club Parma that he has signed a contract with them

● 29/09/01...Malaga are beaten 2-1 by Athletic Bilbao on a weekend when Celta Vigo stay top of the Spanish Liga after beating Mallorca 2-0

**France, Argentina and Italy are currently considered to be the best national sides. Do you agree?**
Perhaps, but in World Cup games, just one incident can change everything. Argentina have impressed me the most. They've won their group, have a big lead and still have games in hand.

**Who are the world's best strikers?**
There are many great ones but I'd go for Batistuta and Shevchenko.

**Which coach has been particularly helpful to you?**
Jean Tigana. When he took me on at Monaco he didn't know much about me but he gave me a chance, and then he was very patient and allowed me to develop. Under him I became braver; it's thanks to him and his good advice that I am here talking to you today.

**As a child you used to go to matches with your father and uncle and both told you: "Watch what the centre-forwards do."**
That is true, and even today when I'm watching a game I only look at the attackers – the rest of the team do not exist for me.

**As a player, your father had a free role. Has he ever tried to get you to change your style?**
Never. Scoring goals has been my thing from the time I first kicked a ball. Life is goals – I knew that straight away.

## ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

**TEAM OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2001**

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**Toldo (Internazionale, 2 votes); Thuram (Juventus, 3), Ferdinand (Leeds United, 2), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen, 3), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid, 5); Beckham (Manchester United, 3), Gerrard (Liverpool, 3), Corini (Chievo, 2), Denilson (Betis, 2); Raul (Real Madrid, 3), Owen (Liverpool, 4)**

### HOW THEY VOTED

**GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)**
Ricardo (Boavista); Lauren (Arsenal), Thuram (Juventus), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Figo (Real Madrid), Corini (Chievo), Veron (Manchester United), Valeron (Deportivo La Coruna); Raul (Real Madrid), Trezeguet (Juventus)

**VOETBAL MAGAZINE (BLG)**
Toldo (Internazionale); Sensini (Parma), Andersson (Barcelona), Ferdinand (Leeds United), Cygan (Lille); Baggio (Brescia), Lincoln (Kaiserslautern), Van der Vaart (Ajax); Owen (Liverpool), Chiesa (Fiorentina), Denilson (Betis)

**KICKER (GER)**
Cavallero (Celta Vigo); Contra (Milan), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen), Berizzo (Celta Vigo), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Gerrard (Liverpool), Paulo Sousa (Panathinaikos), Corini (Chievo), Kewell (Leeds United); Owen (Liverpool), Shevchenko (Milan)

**DON BALON (SPA)**
Toldo (Internazionale); Zanetti (Internazionale), Ramzy (Kaiserslautern), Berizzo (Celta Vigo), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Beckham (Manchester United), Carriere (Lyon), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Denilson (Betis); Hasselbaink (Chelsea), Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)

**A BOLA (POR)**
Nikopolidis (Panathinaikos); Vignal (Liverpool), Ferdinand (Leeds United), Thuram (Juventus), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen), Gerrard (Liverpool), Veron (Manchester United); Silva (Boavista), Larsson (Celtic), Raul (Real Madrid)

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**VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOL)**
Ziegler (FC Tirol); Laursen (Milan), Ferdinand (Leeds United), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Beckham (Manchester United), Sanchez (Boavista), Gerrard (Liverpool), Henry (Arsenal); Owen (Liverpool), Elber (Bayern Munich), Trezeguet (Juventus)

## NOTES AND QUOTES

**"I made a mistake and I want to apologise to Atalanta coach Vavassori and to the Atalanta staff, but not to the fans."**
*Brescia coach Carlo Mazzone after he ran over to remonstrate with a section of Atalanta fans, whom he described as "100 per cent racist".*

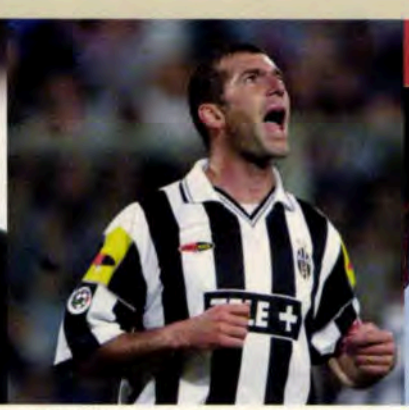
**"We all feel as if we had been told we had won the lottery, then they said they had announced the wrong numbers."**
*Celtic striker Henrik Larsson on the controversial, match-winning penalty won by Juventus substitute Nicola Amoroso in the Champions League encounter in Turin.*

Appearance money...Ronaldo

**"The clause does exist, but the chances of Nike rescinding are zero."**
*Ronaldo admits for the first time that Brazil's contract with Nike includes a clause stating he must play for his country at least once every two years.*

● 30/09/01...Fiorentina striker Enrico Chiesa is ruled out for the rest of the season after damaging knee ligaments in a 3-1 win over Venezia. Chiesa had just signed a new contract with the debt-ridden Florence club

● 01/10/01...Andoni Goikoetxea is fired as coach of Rayo Vallecano, second bottom of the Spanish Liga



● 02/10/01...Zinedine Zidane, now with Real Madrid, is named Italian Player of the Season for his performances for Juventus in 2000-01

● 03/10/01...Udinese coach Roy Hodgson faces pressure to improve results or be sacked

*Paul Gardner*
**GLOBAL VIEW**

# Negative, ugly, anti-soccer. Welcome to the modern game

"SOMETIMES we need to be more boring," is Roy Keane's advice to his Man United team-mates. "We can't keep winning games 4-3 or 4-0 every week." Actually, Man United had just *lost* a game 4-3, but this is a mere detail that deserves to be overlooked given the wider significance of Keane's insight.

The remark is nowhere near as daft as it seems. For me it touches a raw nerve because it illustrates one of football's least appealing sides.

The side that I have brilliantly formulated in Gardner's Third Law of Football: The more important the game, the lousier the football.

Sparkling finals – even half-decent finals – have virtually disappeared from the sport, we all know that. They disappoint partly because slick marketing over-hypes them, but mostly because they are played in a straitjacket of caution that strangles the game before it can get going.

Play it safe, no risks. That, apparently, is the only sure way to success in the modern game. Liverpool did it to perfection last April at the Nou Camp and bored everyone rigid with 90 minutes of anti-soccer.

Accused of 'betraying football', Gerard Houllier admitted that, possibly, maybe, Liverpool were "a little bit negative", but insisted that the 0-0 scoreline was a great triumph – a claim which should gain him instant induction into *L'Ordre des Grands Turneeps du Foot*.

Whatever Liverpool can do, Man United surely believe they can do better, so we await the new Houllier-than-thou boredom at Old Trafford. It will be disguised – as Keane tried to hide it – under the more positive-sounding aim of being "more professional".

Where does it come from, this apparently unanimous certainty that, if you want to win, you have to play rotten football? The converse – that if you try to play good football you're being naive and you're going to lose – was spelled out recently by Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari: "There's no more Beautiful Game – there's no point in playing pretty football and losing."

Scolari (who once admitted that he encouraged his players to foul opponents) believes that the modern game has become more virile over the past 15 years, that this leads to more contact, and it's up to the referee to stop any violence.

The Scolari mentality was to be seen during this year's play-offs in the USA's Major League Soccer. In three of the quarter-finals the losers of the first game (each quarter-final is played as a three-game series) came out for the second games evidently determined not to play it pretty. All three heavily out-fouled their opponents – the foul counts were: Columbus 24 San Jose 12; Kansas City 25 Miami 7; Dallas 32 Chicago 13.

> 'Where does this idea come from, that if you want to win, you have to play rotten football?'

Only Kansas succeeded in winning their game – a flimsy success rate that ought to stir considerable doubts about the efficacy of the virile approach.

But it won't. State-of-the-art technical coaching notwithstanding, it seems that a fiery sermon on getting stuck-in is still the coach's most valued weapon when things get hairy.

Nevertheless, from time to time coaches and players do make faintly guilty noises about all this banality and boredom. Scolari has pointed out that Brazil "haven't qualified yet. If we do then maybe we can do something different and add some quality."

Hmmm. A couple of years ago, after a uniquely awful 0-0 draw with Belarus had qualified Italy for Euro 2000, Paolo Maldini told us: "This was not the game for beautiful football." Fabio Cannavaro added: "We've qualified for the finals and, as always, that's when you'll see our real game."

Recently, USA coach Bruce Arena poured scorn on those looking for any sort of "style" in the CONCACAF World Cup qualifiers: "They're battles. If you want to have an aesthetic view of them, and think they're going to be beautiful and pretty – if that's what you expect, at the end of the day, you're crazy."

Let me see if I've got this right: ugly soccer is to be expected in qualifying games – you can kick and foul and be as boring as you like because the games are so important. But once qualification is achieved, then apparently the games are no longer so important and – *zap!* – a team will 'add some quality' or reveal its 'real game'.

Possibly. For a small nation, with no hope of winning the World Cup, qualification may be the biggest prize, a huge achievement that's worth over a million dollars for each game played in the finals. But for Italy? For Brazil? For England?

Surely someone – FIFA perhaps? – has to be concerned about a sport that too often turns sourly negative on the very occasions when it should be seen at its best.

A sport in which Roy Keane's "to win we've got to be boring" motif sets far too many heads nodding. A sport in which anti-soccer is held to be the wise way to play. Always, of course, with the vague promise that the good stuff is coming up soon.

Is it? Or is Scolari correct when he tells us that we've seen the last of The Beautiful Game?

# The month in pictures

● 04/10/01...Italy captain Paolo Maldini announces that he will retire from international football after the 2002 World Cup finals

● 05/10/01...Emmanuel Petit admits that he is worried about a terrorist attack in the build-up to France's friendly against Algeria

● 06/10/01...Germany draw 0-0 with Finland in their final World Cup group game. England's 2-2 draw with Greece condemns the Germans to the play-offs

# TALENT SCOUT: **France**

Nick Bidwell selects the 10 most promising youngsters in the French First Division

**1 DJIBRIL CISSE**
***(Club: Auxerre, born 12.08.81)***
Many of Europe's top clubs would love to bring the young striker on board, and no wonder. Direct, pacy, strong and technically gifted, he began this season with a flurry of goals and there is every chance that he will soon graduate from the French Under-21s to the full side.

**2 SIDNEY GOVOU**
***(Lyon, 24.07.79)***
Explosive attacker, who hit the headlines last spring with a pair of magnificent goals in his team's 3-0 Champions League victory over Bayern Munich and was voted France's Young Player of 2000-01. Had reservations about joining Lyon from Le Puy four years ago; he admits he had doubts about his ability to make the grade at the highest level. He was wrong.

**3 PEGGUY LUYINDULA**
***(Lyon, 25.05.79)***
Beautifully-balanced, quick and incisive front man, who has been one of the mainstays of the French Under-21 side coached by Raymond Domenech. Started this season in the Second Division with recently relegated Strasbourg, but moved to Lyon in September in a £6million deal as a replacement for the Fulham-bound Steve Marlet.

**4 PHILLIPE MEXES**
***(Auxerre, 30.03.82)***
A brilliant central defender of poise, skill and combativeness, the £15m-rated youngster is said to be on the shopping list of Juventus, Roma, Internazionale, Manchester United and many others. The 'new Laurent Blanc', but with a touch more pace.

**5 PIERRE-ALAIN FRAU**
***(Sochaux, 15.04.80)***
One of the main reasons why newly-promoted Sochaux have done so well this season. An outstanding all-round attacker who can both create – especially when using his blistering pace out on the right – and finish. Very industrious too. Says he models himself on Sonny Anderson and Thierry Henry.

**6 NICOLAS PENNETEAU**
***(Bastia, 28.02.81)***
You would never have guessed this keeper had played only one French First Division match before this season. Immensely brave, great reflexes and bags of authority, he was the captain of the Under-20 side that claimed the European title this year.

**7 CAMEL MERIEM**
***(Sochaux, 18.10.79)***
Elegant playmaker who was linked with Fulham and Lyon this summer, only for the deals to fall through. Diminutive but stands out courtesy of his exquisite touch, total vision and fine free-kicks.

**8 MARAMA VAHIRUA**
***(Nantes, 12.05.80)***
Effervescent penalty box predator whose excellent movement and bag of technical tricks makes him so difficult to pin down. Made his name last season as a 'super-sub' in Nantes' championship-winning campaign, but now has to prove himself as a starter.

Incisive...Lyon's Pegguy Luyindula

**9 ANTHONY REVEILLERE**
***(Rennes, 10.11.79)***
Equally competent at right or left-back, the French Under 21 international's game has improved immeasurably over the last couple of years and Real Madrid are said to be most interested. Intelligent, always uses the ball constructively and strong in the tackle.

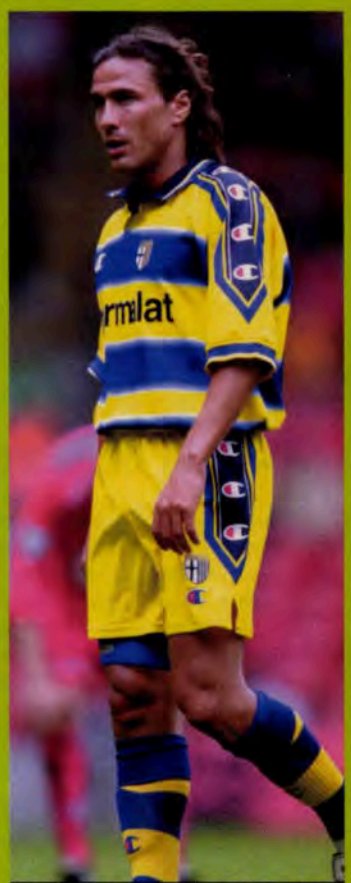
**10 BENOIT PEDRETTI**
***(Sochaux, 12.11.80)***
Arsenal and Bayern Munich are just two of the big-name sides who have been impressed by the midfielder's ball-winning ability, physical presence and usually flawless distribution. He must know his worth. He has an A level in Economics.

## NOTES AND QUOTES

**"My job is not to please English clubs. When I pick a team I think only of the benefits to France."**
*Roger Lemerre sends a clear message to Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who suggested that France cancel their friendly in Australia.*

**"Another time I'll be the one who pretends to cry and he'll be sent off."**
*Bastia keeper Nicolas Penneteau claims Oliver Bierhoff of Monaco got him red-carded, arguing that the German elbowed him and then reacted theatrically to Penneteau's subsequent push.*

**"My team-mates advised me to visit the city first. I went to have a look at Middlesbrough and decided I was better off in Parma."**
*Antonio Benarrivo on why he turned down a move to Teesside.*



Bye-bye to Boro...Antonio Benarrivo

# One body, but 14 voices

Ringmaster...Thomas Kurth

HAPPY Birthday, G-14. The grouping of Europe's top clubs is one year old this November.

In fact, the move to give the big boys a voice was launched at the behest of then Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz, back in 1995. But it was only in November last year that G-14 was constituted formally and admin expert Thomas Kurth was poached from UEFA to run the show.

Trouble is, G-14 speaks with forked tongue. The up-front egos in the grouping belong to the presidents and/or chief executives of the member clubs – most notably Bayern Munich vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

That might not be so bad if the likes of Rummenigge, Milan's executive vice-president Adriano Galliani and Madrid president Florentino Perez could speak out with a G-14 voice. But that is beyond them.

Rummenigge, for instance, has spoken up in support of a restructuring of the UEFA Cup. He wants UEFA to cut the entry in half and restrict matches to Tuesday evenings – thus freeing up Thursdays.

His reasoning is that Thursday matches force more German League games to be switched to Sunday, which is unpopular with clubs and fans.

That's fine for Rummenigge. But Galliani and Perez would scratch their heads. After all, Sunday is the staple domestic matchday in Italy and Spain.

Finding how to speak with one voice is the biggest challenge facing G-14. Without that, its ambition to be an effective pressure group within UEFA – equal in status to the national associations – will never be fulfilled.

The image of G-14 is not a good one. Kurth knows he must struggle to put a positive spin on the group. He and his four-strong staff based in Brussels believe firmly that G-14's activities will benefit far more clubs than just its own elite. Proposals on a worldwide insurance policy for stars on national team duty would benefit every club with an international player – not merely the G-14 members.

On some issues, G-14 has been sure-footed to a degree that shames UEFA. Perez and co chose Brussels for the central office because all the key legal, political and commercial issues bearing down on football are policed from the admin capital of the European Union.

The European federation, by contrast, is still reluctant to come to terms with the reality of power as wielded by the European Commission.

G-14 still has a long way to go. But the traditional structures of football, based on nation-state boundaries, are fraying at the edges.

The issues are ripe for G-14 to exploit – at full volume.

## SoccerEx expires

FOOTBALL'S business conference season has been thrown into uncertainty by the Middle East fallout from the events of September 11 in the United States.

The first football casualty was SoccerEx which had been set for a week's commercial fun and games in the Emirates in mid-October. Cancelled.

However, Football Expo, the No 1 business exhibition and conference event, goes ahead as usual in Cannes in January. Then comes Planetfutbol, a new addition to the calendar, in Barcelona in February.

Organisers of Football Expo had hoped, at one stage, to persuade FIFA to bring the annual World Player of the Year gala to Cannes. Instead, that goes ahead in FIFA's home city of Zurich on December 17.

# Safety first for football's ditherers

WORLD and European football must remove the blinkers where international security is concerned.

Ostrich-like responses to fragile issues in unstable parts of the world have shown up both the European and world federations in a poor light.

First there was the matter of Rangers being ordered by UEFA to send their players and officials to Dagestan, neighbouring war-torn Chechnya, for a UEFA Cup tie against Anzhi of Russia. Then we had all the dithering over the Israel v Austria World Cup qualifying tie.

In neither case should there have been any doubt – switching to a neutral venue should have been the immediate response. Of course, FIFA and UEFA want their competitions to run strictly to the rules. But safety and security concerns fly far higher. In Rangers' case, the British Foreign Office had 'advised' the club not to undertake the trip. For UEFA officials to have claimed to know better than a government's international specialists beggars belief. It took the tragic events of September 11 to persuade UEFA to think again – but that was only because Rangers were then unable to obtain insurance cover.

FIFA could hardly claim the upper ground over Israel v Austria. No fewer than nine Austrian players refused to make the trip when asked by coach Otto Baric. The reasons appeared perfectly obvious out in the real world. Yet, despite the international tensions and daily killings in and around Israeli territory, FIFA insisted on the match going ahead. Again, only when a Siberian airlines flight exploded over the Black Sea did president Sepp Blatter intervene to postpone the game.

Two points leap to mind.

First, the international football authorities must not play fast and loose with the lives of the players, officials and supporters who are the lifeblood of the game they are entrusted to govern.

Secondly, in delicate international times, it ill-behoves football to believe that police and security officials should be distracted from their prime responsibilities by a 'mere' football match.

The World Cup play-offs are imminent and such problems will not go away.

# Fergie has the last laugh

Scoring points...Ferguson enjoys baiting the media

SIR ALEX FERGUSON is often portrayed by what we used to call Fleet Street as a glowering, humourless, teacup-throwing, watch-obsessed perfectionist. He is also, of course, the most successful manager in the modern British if not world game.

But he does enjoy a joke, especially if he can spring it at the media's expense. His press conference after Manchester United's sensational 5-3 comeback victory over Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane was a case in point.

At half-time, with Spurs 3-0 ahead, the assembled laptops were clicking away in scorn about the manager who threw his defence wide open by rushing Jaap Stam off to Lazio. At the final whistle, the Stam theme had been overtaken by the need to add another notch to the Fergie legend.

Sir Alex, at the subsequent press conference, went through the usual gamut of questions, duly recounting why the first-half display had been so depressed and the second-half revival so delightful. He refused to be drawn on what he might have said at half-time and parried a few other questions.

Then came the last enquiry: had all United's internationals come through unscathed? "Everyone's fine," he said and stood up to go before adding: "Apart from David Beckham being ruled out."

For a moment everyone believed him. It was the neatest dummy of a remarkable match.

# Blatter in the clear

UEFA will back Sepp Blatter when it comes down to renewing the FIFA president's four-year mandate on the eve of the opening match at next year's World Cup finals.

That may appear surprising, given the antagonism between Nyon and Zurich in the wake of, first, Blatter's election three years ago and, secondly, after the collapse of marketing agent ISL earlier this year.

But Lennart Johansson, the European federation's president, has gone on record in Trinidad and Tobago, so it must be true. Johansson said, in an interview at the Under-17 World Championship, that an eight-strong UEFA panel had reviewed the situation and decided Blatter would have their support.

Several reasons can be advanced for UEFA's position. What was more intriguing was exactly why Johansson had come out in public so early, effectively appearing to weaken UEFA's bargaining hand with Blatter in the run-up to FIFA Congress. Perhaps the deal has already been done, of course. Maybe coming out for Blatter now was the price for keeping Michel Platini out of the UEFA presidential race and thus ensuring the security of tenure of chief executive Gerd Aigner.

It must be said that it is a virtually unanimous view on the inside that the accession to the UEFA presidency of any 'outsider' would swiftly put an end to Aigner's command of the European federation's administration.

Why should UEFA back Blatter? For one thing, Europe has no credible rival candidate to offer. Secondly, Europe would much prefer a European – even Blatter – to a non-European. UEFA did not enjoy being a fiefdom of Brazilian Joao Havelange for 24 years and does not want a repeat under, say, Issa Hayatou of Cameroon or Chung Mong-joon of South Korea.

Set for another term...Blatter

Backed by Europe, Blatter should have little problem picking up enough votes from Africa and Asia to secure a shadow majority. Then he will stand unopposed and be re-elected by acclamation.

# Players deserve their cut

THOSE talking heads who appear on television are paid for so doing – unless they have been snatch-interviewed as central figures in a particular news story that day.

It is perfectly right and proper, therefore, that English football's professional players should be paid a fee every time they appear in match action on television, whether on Sky, BBC, ITV or Channels Four and Five.

If the footballers were as greedy as their detractors proclaim, they would have worked out a deal by which they benefited personally from every match appearance. But they don't. David Beckham and the rest give up their claim for a TV appearance fee in exchange for a cut of the overall contract being diverted to the players' union, the Professional Footballers' Association, for its various good causes.

Those causes have increased massively in demand over the past few years as greedy clubs mop up more and more youngsters, fewer and fewer of whom will make the grade. The cast-offs have, in many cases, to be re-educated for the real world. Even many of those who make the grade will need to lean on the PFA for pension or disability support.

Entire clubs have had cause to be grateful to the PFA for taking over their wage bills in times of financial crisis.

Originally, the PFA received 10 per cent of the value of the domestic television contract. Later, as rights fees started going through the roof, the 'cut' was trimmed back to five per cent. That's the rate which PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor had expected to be maintained for the new TV deal.

The clubs disagreed and offered 'only' £5.2million rather than the £25m which would have represented the famous or infamous five per cent.

One suspects that the clubs' failure of morals over the five per cent is partly fuelled by a wish in some quarters to trim Taylor's personal and high profile sails. Taylor may not be everyone's cup of tea but he does a great job for his members, the vast majority of whom are out of sight and mind of national newspaper headline writers.

Premiership superstars can improve their self-centred, egotistical, greedy image very simply. All they need do is to mark an X on the ballot form in favour of a strike on behalf of their not-so-lucky comrades.

Power to the players and why not? Who pays at the turnstiles to watch the chairman and manager kick a ball around?

# Player power, Bayern style

Bayern Munich vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge talks to Gavin Hamilton

Strong opinions...Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

FORMER German international Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is an increasingly influential figure within European football's corridors of power.

As the senior administrative figure at European champions Bayern Munich, his views on the future of European club football are being sought more and more. As the only member of the G-14 management committee to also sit on the UEFA club competitions committee, Rummenigge is increasingly seen as the leading spokesman of the G-14 group.

It is a difficult position to be in, given the membership structure of the G-14. But Rummenigge is unafraid of expressing his opinions on a wide range of subjects – even if it brings him into conflict with other G-14 members.

**WORLD SOCCER: Would you like to see more players becoming administrators?**

KARL-HEINZ RUMMENIGGE: Yes, it's a good thing for the game. Top players who also know something about business add something extra to football. At Bayern, we're convinced of it. For example, we are now thinking of building a new stadium. As a former player, you know how important the atmosphere in a stadium is. So we will insist the stands are as close as possible to the pitch, not like the Olympic stadium. Players also know how important good grass pitches are. If you leave this sort of thing to business people who know nothing about football, things happen like in Amsterdam, where they have now put down new grass, I think, for the 25th time.

**Could any of the current Bayern players move into management at the club?**

Oliver Kahn could, he's very Bayern-minded. He could have earned much more money elsewhere but he feels at home here. He also has the intelligence to play a management role. In fact, we have already discussed it with him.

**What changes would you like to see to the Champions League?**

It's a really controversial issue at the moment and I understand that UEFA is working on a new format. G-14 would really like to see a smaller size, with just the top clubs. We need to ensure that the Champions League is the right product. It would be better to play on Wednesdays only and no longer on Tuesdays. We don't like the 8.45 kick-off time either. That's too late for the northern countries. You should play on Wednesday evenings only, with two kick-off times if necessary: 5.30 and 8.30. You can then devote Tuesday entirely to the UEFA Cup.

**But UEFA has 51 members. They all have to be kept happy...**

Let's be honest. The small countries enter only because of the money from TV rights. But the big clubs really have nothing to gain by playing these small countries. The big country clubs should limit themselves to playing in an elite competition, the Champions League. The UEFA Cup is, after all, really a competition for losers. I know that UEFA is thinking about introducing a group system here, as well. Perhaps that is the best solution.

**So is a superleague now on the back-burner?**

It's a fact. The national leagues have become too important. It is misleading to keep talking about a superleague. A strong domestic league and a strong Champions League on Wednesday evenings, with fewer games, is how I see the future for club football – the Champions League with one group stage and then a knockout system, so that if you reach the Final, you play 13 games instead of the present 17.

**What will be the future role for the G-14?**

We want people to listen to us and our interests to be respected. You could say we are a lobby group who want to continue talking to everyone.

**You had a meeting recently with Sepp Blatter...**

That was a good example of useful lobbying. The top European clubs were annoyed about the World Cup qualifiers in South America, where each country plays 18 games. Many South American players, especially from Brazil and Argentina, play for top European clubs. The clubs pay these players but they had to release them 18 times to play in World Cup qualifiers. That's an unacceptable situation and we discussed this with Blatter. He promised us that FIFA would no longer tolerate this kind of organisation of World Cup qualifiers in South America.

**What do you think of the money being paid by clubs to players in Spain, England and Italy?**

Their top players undoubtedly earn more than in Germany. But that is not everything, and I am speaking from experience because I have played in Italy. Those who spend more money get steadily weaker. Just look at what happened to Fiorentina. Not all these clubs have the money. We had offers for Sammy Kuffour last year, but they all wanted to pay in instalments, so we said no. Clubs in Spain and Italy move with the whim of the day. They are really led by the press and the supporters, so they make insane purchases to keep the fans happy. My friend at Milan, Adriano Galliani, called for wage-capping last year. Then he went out and spent £60m on new players this summer!

**So is Bayern's policy a better way?**

Everyone should follow their own philosophy. At Bayern we believe in a cautious approach. There's no need to panic because you have lost twice. With the football expertise we can assemble at Bayern we buy carefully. When we lost the Champions League Final against Manchester United, we did not panic. We continued to believe in our players. Two years later we won the Champions League.

**You have been mentioned as a future UEFA president. Does that interest you?**

I am happier here at Bayern. If there is a problem, the three of us [Rummenigge, president Franz Beckenbauer, general manager Uli Hoeness] can have a meeting here in the boardroom and take a decision quickly. I like to compare a club to a speedboat, which can turn around quickly and change direction, whereas bodies like FIFA are like an ocean liner, which moves very slowly. They have to navigate all sorts of diplomatic channels. That's not my style. I am not patient enough!

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Jump to it...Bay Area CyberRays celebrate victory in the inaugural WUSA Championship Final

# WUSA in good shape

## Gabriel Dabner on the first season of professional women's soccer in the United States

WHILE the United States has never been among the world's elite in the men's game, in women's football it has reigned supreme.

After winning the inaugural Women's World Cup in China in 1991 and reaching the semi-finals in Sweden four years later, the US hosted and won the third edition, in 1999. The plan had been to hold the games in small college stadiums, but demand from supporters proved too great. When the US team beat China in the Final, they did so in front of a crowd of 90,000 in the Pasadena Rose Bowl.

The success of the US national team set the stage for the world's first women's professional league, the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA), which kicked off in April 2001.

John Hendricks, founder of the Discovery television channel, did more than anyone else to get the League off the ground, helping to raise £40million of funding, with major backing from other media players such as AOL Time Warner.

Mia Hamm and the other stars of the USA team were founder members, with 18 out of 20 players choosing to take a stake in the new League rather than a cash payment of £33,000. As the world's only women's pro league, WUSA was able to have its pick of foreign stars, such as Brazil's Sissi, China's Sun Wen and England's Kelly Smith. As with MLS – the US men's League, WUSA collectively owns all the players' contracts.

In August, Bay Area CyberRays beat Atlanta Beat on penalties in the first championship Final in Boston. The inaugural season was declared a success. Average attendances, at 8,295, had comfortably surpassed WUSA's target of 7,500.

The League has attracted sponsorship from household names such as Gillette and Johnson & Johnson. Only in its TV coverage did WUSA acknowledge that things had not gone as well as had been hoped. While the inaugural WUSA match drew 34,148 supporters, it attracted a TV audience of just 0.5 per cent, and ratings throughout the season were below expectations.

Despite the League's perceived success, major changes are under way. Shortly after the championship Final, WUSA's board of governors unveiled a new business plan to break even within five years. Lynn Morgan, the new chief executive, is determined to build on the bridgehead that WUSA has established. "Even though we surpassed our goals, we want full stadiums," she said shortly after her appointment. "We want to have 15,000-seat stadiums that are sold out." As for the expansion of the League, a number of cities, including Chicago and Dallas, have expressed an interest in playing host to a WUSA team, and they will be considered as early as 2003.

Will WUSA be around to celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2011? It will be a challenge, but time and demographics are on its side. A FIFA survey last year estimated that six million women in the USA play soccer, and the sport is most popular with the young. The sociological phenomenon of the middle-class 'Soccer Mom' is well documented. A WUSA match, with its pre- and post-match entertainment and coaching sessions for young players, is a commodity designed to appeal to the family audience.

WUSA's commitment to customer satisfaction is something the English FA – which plans to set up a women's pro league in 2003 – and other national federations considering setting up women's leagues would do well to take on board.

*Gabriel Dabner writes for Soccer Investor (www.soccerinvestor.com)*

### WUSA the backers

| Team | Investor | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| New York Power | AOL Time Warner | £3m |
| Carolina Courage | AOL Time Warner | £3m |
| Atlanta Beat | Cox Enterprises | £3m |
| San Diego Spirit | Cox Communications | £3m |
| Boston Breakers | Amos Hostetter | £3m |
| Philadelphia | Comcast Corporation | £3m |
| Washington Freedom | John Hendricks | £3m |
| Bay Area CyberRays | John Hendricks | £1.5m |
| | Amos Hostetter | £1.5m |

*The investors put up an additional £16m for stadium development or renovation.*

## Race hots up to host 2006 African Nations Cup

THE bidding for the 2006 African Nations Cup finals has taken on a new intensity with the entry of South Africa into the race and the announcement from the African confederation that the finals will also be used as qualifiers for the World Cup finals the same year.

The move, designed to reduce the pressure of international commitments, has already received a positive response from FIFA president Sepp Blatter and is expected to be formalised soon by the world governing body. It will make the 2006 edition the most important Nations Cup yet, and three of the continent's heavyweights are jostling for the right to host the tournament.

South Africa are the latest to throw their name into the ring, joining Morocco and Egypt. Morocco and South Africa already had a bitter rivalry in the 2006 World Cup bidding race, in which South Africa eventually lost out narrowly to Germany.

A decision on the 2006 Nations Cup hosts will be made next year. It will be a difficult task as the winners of the bidding race will become the firm favourites to stage the 2010 World Cup, which has already been promised to Africa.

South Africa sees the 2006 Nations Cup finals as part of its strategy to win the right to host the 2010 World Cup. It has also applied to host the FIFA Congress in 2003.

***Mark Gleeson***

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Switch at the back... skipper Paolo Maldini has moved inside to central defence

# Terim's system up and running

## Silvio Berlusconi's under-achieving side have had a makeover. Paddy Agnew reports

IF THERE has been a rite of passage in the recent life and times of Milan, then it came on March 13 of this year. That was the night when, for the second consecutive year, the mighty Milan limped out of the Champions League, held to a 1-1 draw by Spanish champions Deportivo La Coruna.

A more than interested spectator at that game was club owner Silvio Berlusconi, who, when not busy being Milan's number one fan, also doubles up as Italian Prime Minister.

On the night of the Deportivo game, Berlusconi was in the middle of an election campaign. If he had been hoping for a pre-electoral boost from his team, he was to be bitterly disappointed. Speaking on live TV after the match, he underlined his distress by saying that he would now take matters at the club in hand himself. Put simply, Berlusconi wanted the broom cupboard swept clean, starting with coach Alberto Zaccheroni, who was promptly dismissed next morning.

Furthermore, the Milan owner sent out the word that Zaccheroni's long-term replacement must be capable of constructing a side that was both stylish and winning.

By the beginning of this season, the effects of the Berlusconi intervention were there for all to see. Not only had Zaccheroni's short-term replacements, Cesare Maldini and Mauro Tassotti, themselves been replaced by Turkish coach Fatih 'The Emperor' Terim, but there had been significant changes within the squad.

A number of the established foreign players were offloaded – including Croat Zvonimir Boban (Celta Vigo), German Oliver Bierhoff (Monaco), Brazilian Leonardo (Sao Paulo) and Argentinian Andres Guglielminpietro (Internazionale) – as well as Italians Federico Giunti (Brescia), Luigi Sala and Gianni Comandini (both Atalanta).

Leading the Milan 'new wave' was Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa (in from Fiorentina), followed by Spanish striker Javi Moreno, Romanian defender Cosmin Contra (both Alaves), Danish defender Martin Laursen (Verona), plus Italians Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus) and Massimo Donati (Atalanta). Milan have further strengthened their squad since the season began, buying Turkish midfielder Umit Davala (Galatasaray), Belorussian striker Vitaly Kutuzov (BATE Borisov) and former old boy Marco Simone (Monaco).

Despite all these player arrivals, the key figure in the Milan revival is coach Terim. The fiery Turk, who did exceptionally well with Fiorentina last season until his disagreements with owner Vittorio Cecchi Gori undermined team morale, made all the right noises during the off-season period following his appointment last June.

"My philosophy will remain the same. We will play positive, attacking football that the fans will enjoy watching. Even the players will like my style," he said, adding a footnote that indicates much about The Emperor's all too healthy self-esteem. "Some people ask me what system I play. Is it a Dutch system, a French system or a Brazilian system? They don't understand. It's none of these – it's the Terim system."

Put simply, the Terim system, at least as far as Milan are concerned, involves a four man defence (Contra-Paolo Maldini-Laursen-Kakha Kaladze), a three-man midfield (Gennaro Gattuso-Demetrio Albertini-Serginho), a playmaker (Rui Costa) and two strikers (Andrii Shevchenko and Inzaghi).

Inevitably, too, the system has not proved an overnight success. Although Milan picked up prestigious Serie A wins against Fiorentina (5-2) and Lazio (2-0) in the opening weeks of the season, their title aspirations suffered a severe setback when defeated 3-1 away to gritty little Perugia on the final Sunday of September.

In a game played in a steady drizzle, Milan looked less than

enthusiastic for a scrap. But despite that setback, Terim struck an upbeat note afterwards, saying: "The first thing I want my team to do is to play attacking, positive football. At the moment, winning comes second."

Just how long that particular moment may last, remains to be seen. Not long, one suspects. The Perugia setback apart, there are signs that a solid Terim foundation has been laid.

Crucially, as at Fiorentina, the Turk appears to have won the full confidence of senior players. Inzaghi, Shevchenko, Albertini, Maldini and Rui Costa all look willing to play for Terim, and the consequent results can be devastating, especially on the attack.

Perhaps even more important, though, has been Terim's ability to get the best out of some of the less famous names in the Milan squad. Most coaches could probably get results with Shevchenko, Rui Costa and skipper Maldini, but Terim has also galvanised his out-of-form keeper Cristiano Abbiati, his new-entry defender Laursen and his confused midfielder, Brazilian Serginho.

Abbiati has refound his confidence, Laursen has thrived in the big time, while Serginho is beginning to deliver his immense attacking potential thanks to the fact that he is now 'covered' by Georgian Kaladze. Intriguingly, too, the Terim system involves an element of built-in, guaranteed defensive solidity, with the switching of Maldini to central defence, while Kaladze adapts to the left-back role.

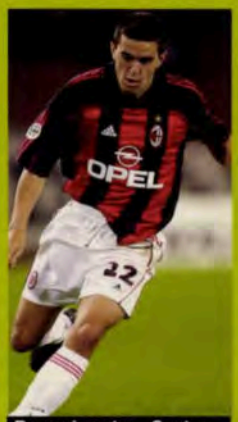
Last season at Fiorentina, Terim showed that he is more than capable of repeating the spectacular results achieved with Turkey (Euro 96 qualification) and Galatasaray (UEFA Cup and four straight Turkish titles).

His start thus far at the San Siro has been even smoother. All the omens would suggest that Milan may be on the way back to the very top of the greasy pole.

## NEW FACES AT THE SAN SIRO

Bench press...Terim has revitalised the Milan squad

**Fatih TERIM**
Born: 14.09.54
The most successful Turkish coach of recent times. Guided Turkey to the finals of Euro 96 and won the 2000 UEFA Cup with Galatasaray before heading for Italy. Clashed with Fiorentina owner Vittorio Cecchi Gori and quit last spring, when he was widely tipped to take over at Milan.



Romanian star...Contra

Capped 51 times as a player by Turkey, he made his name as coach of the Turkish Under-21 side that won the 1993 Mediterranean Games.

**Cosmin CONTRA**
15.12.75
Romanian right-back and another summer signing from Alaves, for whom he was arguably man of the match in last season's epic UEFA Cup Final against Liverpool.

**Massimo DONATI**
26.03.81
Highly-rated young midfielder who came through the ranks at Atalanta before being signed by Milan last year. Stayed on loan in Bergamo before moving to the San Siro this summer.

**Filippo INZAGHI**
09.08.73
Renowned penalty-box poacher who moved to Milan in a £26m summer deal from Juventus. Slight of frame but a very sharp finisher. Nicknamed 'Pippo' and elder brother of Lazio striker Simone.

**Martin LAURSEN**
26.07.77
Powerful, goalscoring centre-back who joined Milan in the summer from Verona. Danish international.

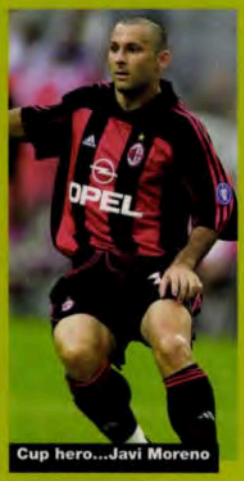
**JAVI MORENO**
10.09.74
Spanish international striker who made his name in Alaves's run to the 2001 UEFA Cup Final, when he scored twice against Liverpool. Failed to make the grade at Barcelona and then spent three seasons in Spain's lower divisions. Joined Milan in a £5m deal.

**Kakha KALADZE**
27.02.78
Georgian international defender who is not strictly a new boy, having been signed from Kyiv Dynamo in early 2001. A powerful, intelligent centre-back who can also play in midfield.

**Vitaly KUTUZOV**
01.01.70
Belorussian striker signed after impressing for BATE Borisov against Milan in the first round of this season's UEFA Cup. Likely to play more often following injury to Jose Mari.

**Manuel RUI COSTA**
29.03.72
Midfield playmaker and one of the most talented players to have come out of Portugal in recent years. A World Youth Cup winner in 1991, he joined Milan this summer for £28m after seven seasons at Fiorentina.

**UMIT Davala**
30.07.73
Turkish midfielder who is so versatile that he played in every position except goalkeeper for his previous club, Galatasaray. Favours playing at right-back for the Turkish national side.



Cup hero...Javi Moreno

Class act...Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

On schedule...Peter Velappan believes that preparations for the 2002 World Cup are well in hand

# 'Nothing will stop us now!'

AFC chief Peter Velappan insists next year's finals will be unaffected by financial and security concerns. Interview by Keir Radnedge

PETER VELAPPAN is FIFA's senior professional, since he has been running Asian football for the past 23 years. Europe and South America still tend to look down, patronisingly, on the realm of the general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation, based in Kuala Lumpur. But Velappan has enjoyed a football education second to none.

At the start of the 1960s he studied the game as variously expressed by Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt, by the very English Wolverhampton Wanderers of Stan Cullis and the 'school' run by Ron Greenwood at West Ham United. Since then, after stepping out of a high-flying career with Unilever, Velappan has brought the largest continental confederation through to the barrier-breaking achievement of hosting its first World Cup – as South Korea and Japan will do next June.

It's been an even bigger challenge than he might have imagined. The Pacific Rim economies have gone into reverse over the past six years, since FIFA first gave co-hosting the green light. The accession of Sepp Blatter as FIFA president and then the damaging struggle between the would-be 2006 World Cup hosts dragged Asian football into political minefields Velappan would surely rather have avoided.

Then came the collapse of ISL, FIFA's long-term marketing agent, followed closely by revelations of a £40million 'hole' in the world governing body's World Cup accounts.

Now events of September 11 in the United States have cast a new shadow of security concern over what was always bound to be a leap into the dark.

Velappan, remarkably, remains unfazed.

**WORLD SOCCER: How are preparations going for the World Cup finals?**

PETER VELAPPAN: All our preparations are on track. All the stadia work is nearing completion in both Korea and Japan. Certainly they will all be ready by the end of this year. Everyone will be catered for wonderfully – fans, players, media. The legacy will be six new football-specific stadia in Korea and five in Japan. The Koreans had intended to open their new stadium in Seoul on November 11 against Germany. Then, when Germany lost 5-1 at home to England, the prospect of those opponents went out of the window. The last I heard, the Koreans were hoping to arrange a match against Holland or Portugal.

**Have increased security concerns after the events of September 11 in the USA affected the number of tickets available?**

Ticketing has been the most challenging issue we have had to face, and not only because of security concerns. After all the problems in France four years ago we had to create an entirely new system. So we have 3.2 million tickets altogether, split 50-50 between the co-hosts and the international football family. That means 800,000 each for Japan and Korea. The issue was then complicated by the fact that naturally, after September 11, we had to step up security considerations over printing, distribution, and so on. But that will not affect the number of tickets on sale. Issues such as segregation had already been considered. I don't expect all the tickets will be sold by the end of the year, for example. We may well still have tickets available for some of the 'little matches'. Next April will be the cut-off point. But we will not be selling match tickets on the day. We would rather release spare tickets to local schools as a promotion for football.

**Concerns had been raised that the host cities and towns would not be geared up to 'entertain' fans during the gaps between matches. Is that still the case?**

No. Each venue will be organising various cultural events to coincide with the matches so that visiting fans can see more than just the football. Also, both governments, at ministerial level, have promised to ease port of entry requirements so that fans have a smooth journey through the airports and at the hotels. It's also been agreed to increase the number of flights, both internally and between Japan and Korea, not only to help fans but also for media and officials. The relevant Ministries are also discussing a currency exchange scheme so that Korean won can be accepted at hotels and so on in Japan, and certain services in Korea can be paid for in Japanese yen. The Koreans have a tourist smart-card system which we have asked them to extend for the World Cup. You pay so much money which is registered in a swipe-card which can then be used in hotels, restaurants and bars. At the end of the trip, if there is money left, you can claim it back. I think many people will find that useful.

**Visitors to Korea and Japan have also raised concerns about communication**

**skills and a comparative lack of linguistic assistance. How is that being addressed?**
We are organising volunteer interpreters to help at hotels, airports and rail stations. They will be fluent in English, Spanish and French at least. The Koreans also have a sort of walkie-talkie which is a recorded tourist guide. Then a multi-language guide is being produced for all the taxi drivers. It has 100 basic questions – so all you have to do is point to the question in your language.

**Initially, it was hard to get the two countries' representatives to even agree dates for a meeting. Have Japan and Korea developed the necessary spirit of co-operation?**
It's true that for many older people the war memories linger and issues arise, such as school textbooks, and so on. But we have to remember that the future belongs to today's younger generation. So a World Cup 'bridge' has been built between schools in 'twinned' cities. The Japanese are sending 600 school teams to Korea for football matches, and vice versa. Not only do the students play the matches but they also stay in people's homes. It's a good sign.

'Hosting the World Cup will be a tremendous boost for Asian football. This continent has 60 per cent of the world's population; the potential for growth is enormous'

**What will be the impact of China qualifying for the finals for the first time?**
As AFC general secretary, of course, I have to remain impartial. But no one can deny that the impact of China's presence at the finals will be enormous for so many reasons. The ideal solution – of course, these things cannot be regulated – would be for China to play their first round matches in Korea. It's only an hour or two from Shanghai by air and the Chinese now have the money to be able to afford to travel to matches in huge numbers.

**How have you managed to cope with the fallout from the collapse of ISL, FIFA's marketing agent?**
Well, we have coped. Fortunately, FIFA created its own marketing company very quickly, took on many of the ISL staff, and they have worked extremely hard to put everything in place commercially. The worst issue was the information technology solution. Korea and Japan are the biggest IT countries in the world but ISL had insisted everything be left to them – until it was too late. Anyway, now everything has been resolved and we have the 15 major commercial partners. But, of course, no one is quite sure how everything will be resolved financially.

**What sort of costs have had to be met?**
The Koreans have spent around £2billion on stadia, and the Japanese £2.6bn. Of course, they will never recoup that money. The stadia are the legacy for the two countries. The local organising committees will not lose out, though. Of course, with FIFA it is different. This £40million 'hole' has been left and a number of projects have had to be frozen. How this all works out in World Cup terms we can only wait and see.

**What does the World Cup mean to Asian football?**
The Asian confederation is one of the biggest. We have 44 members now that Kazakhstan has left for UEFA, but that will be back up to 45 when East Timor joins – probably at our congress next year just before the World Cup. But hosting the World Cup will be a tremendous boost for Asian football and we hope our teams also do us proud. Asia, with 3.2 billion people, is a football continent. We have 60 per cent of the world's population and 60 per cent of those are young people under the age of 20. The potential for growth is enormous. In football terms, we have the necessary infrastructure and now we have an administration system in place. First, we will bring the 12 professional league countries on board, then the rest. It will take time and it will be expensive but it must be done. All this means the rest of the football world must take note of us.

**You need the national teams of Japan and Korea to do better at this World Cup than in the past – the Koreans in particular, surely?**
Of course we need successful teams to improve our image and our profile in the rest of the football world. Our youth teams do very well. When our senior teams start doing as well then FIFA will not be able to ignore us – especially when you consider the potential power of China with a population of 300 million tuning in to television and the internet.

**Not every team can go to the World Cup. Who will you miss the most?**
I'm sorry Holland have not made it. I have enjoyed watching them at World Cups down the years. And I will miss the Scottish fans… just think of the Tartan Army in their kilts marching into the cities of Korea and Japan…

## The finalists so far

ARGENTINA
CAMEROON
CHINA
COSTA RICA
CROATIA
DENMARK
ENGLAND
FRANCE (holders)
ITALY
JAPAN (co-hosts)
NIGERIA
POLAND
PORTUGAL
RUSSIA
SENEGAL
SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH KOREA (co-hosts)
SPAIN
SWEDEN
TUNISIA
UNITED STATES

## Almost there...

UKRAINE OR GERMANY
(play-off, Nov 10/11 and 13/14)

BELGIUM OR CZECH REPUBLIC
(play-off, Nov 10/11 and 13/14)

SLOVENIA OR ROMANIA
(play-off, Nov 10/11 and 13/14)

AUSTRIA/ISRAEL OR TURKEY
(play-off, Nov 10/11 and 13/14)

REP IRELAND
(play-off v 3rd-placed Asian team, Nov 10 and 15)

PARAGUAY
(currently 2nd in South American group)

ECUADOR
(3rd in South American group)

BRAZIL
(4th in South American group)

URUGUAY/COLOMBIA OR AUSTRALIA
(play-off, dates to be announced)

MEXICO OR HONDURAS
(currently 3rd and 4th in CONCACAF final group)

IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA
(currently 1st and 2nd in Asia Group A)

# Beckham condemns Germany to the play-offs

Gavin Hamilton rounds up the action from the final round of European group qualifying matches

THE already fragile state of the German national side took another battering in the final round of the European group qualifying matches.

David Beckham's superb free-kick in the dying seconds against Greece at Old Trafford enabled England to snatch a 2-2 draw and confirmed automatic qualification for Sven Goran Eriksson's side at the expense of Germany.

England finished top of **Group 9** on goal difference, ahead of the Germans, who could only draw 0-0 with Finland in Gelsenkirchen. Oliver Bierhoff, in for the injured Carsten Jancker, missed three clear chances, while his strike partner Oliver Neuville also failed to convert when confronted with an open goal.

Despite their inability to score against the Finns, Germany thought they had done enough to secure an automatic ticket to next year's finals. When the whistle blew at Schalke's futuristic new stadium, England, without the injured Michael Owen, were losing 2-1 to the Greeks. It was by far the most disappointing performance yet under Eriksson, with three exceptions: captain Beckham, goalkeeper Nigel Martyn and substitute Teddy Sheringham. Martyn made two crucial saves to prevent Greece going 2-0 up; Sheringham scored with his first touch to make it 1-1; while Beckham saved the best for last, curling a trademark set-piece from 30 yards with seconds of added time remaining.

Afterwards, Eriksson was quick to pay tribute to Beckham, saying: "He's a big, big captain and he showed that with his performance and his ice-cold scoring when I thought the game was finished. He's the best taker of free-kicks in the world today."

The Greeks voiced their anger at Dutch referee Dick Jol, claiming that Sheringham fooled him into awarding the free-kick from which Beckham equalised.

For Germany, who had expected England to beat Greece, the result was another blow to their already bruised morale.

"I was in shock," Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer said. "In the first half it was as if we were playing a friendly. But we shouldn't slam the team, we don't have any other players.

"We are a long way from being one of the top football nations. They have relegated us way down the list. Currently Germany can participate – but we can no longer win."

A shocked and tearful Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn struggled to come to terms with the result, saying: "Some players didn't understand what was at stake and what a chance we missed."

Coach Rudi Voller had opted to keep the Manchester scoreline from the players, but Kahn believed that was a mistake. "I don't understand why the score of the other qualifier wasn't on the scoreboard. It could have motivated both the players and the fans," he argued.

Another free-kick expert, Alessandro Del Piero, secured victory for Italy in their final qualification match, against Hungary in **Group 8**. The 1-0 result confirmed the *Azzurri's* place in the finals.

In **Group 6**, Croatia reached their second successive World Cup finals after beating Belgium 1-0 in Zagreb. Robert Prosinecki missed a first-half penalty, but Alen Boksic made amends in the 76th minute, sweeping Bosko Balaban's cross into the net. The result took the Croatians to the top of the group, condemning Belgium to the play-offs, and Scotland, 2-1 winners over Latvia, into third place. Craig Brown, Scotland's long-serving, long-suffering coach, resigned afterwards.

Elsewhere, there were some emphatic scorelines as Russia, Portugal and Denmark all sealed automatic qualification.

In **Group 1**, leaders Russia easily gained the point they needed to finish in the automatic qualification spot when they beat Switzerland 4-0 in Moscow. In doing so, they also destroyed any remaining hopes the Swiss had of snatching the play-off place from Slovenia.

Vladimir Beschastnykh scored a first-half hat-trick, converting a penalty in the 14th minute, heading in a Rolan Gusev pass five minutes later, then heading in Yegor Titov's cross seven minutes from the interval. Titov added a fourth late in the game.

In Ljubljana, Slovenia beat the Faroe Islands 3-0, with two goals from Nastja Ceh and one for Senad Tiganj, making his debut. Yugoslavia, despite routing Luxembourg 6-2, had to settle for third place.

In **Group 2**, Portugal, as expected, finished as automatic qualifiers after hammering Estonia 5-0, with two goals apiece from Nuno Gomes and Luis Figo and one from Joao Pinto.

The Lisbon scoreline left Portugal ahead of the Republic of Ireland on goal difference. The Irish beat Cyprus 4-0 in Dublin to confirm their place in the play-offs. Niall Quinn scored the Republic's second goal, thus breaking Frank Stapleton's record as the country's leading goalscorer.

In **Group 3**, Denmark and the Czech Republic both confirmed their respective positions with crushing 6-0 home victories. In Copenhagen,

**Captain marvel...David Beckham earns a hug from Emile Heskey after his dramatic last-minute equaliser against Greece**

Denmark trampled over Iceland to seal automatic qualification. The Danes were 4-0 up by half-time, after Thomas Gravesen (two), Dennis Rommedahl and Ebbe Sand found the net. Sand and Jan Michaelsen added to the haul after the break.

In Prague, the Czechs shattered Bulgaria's hopes of snatching the play-off place with two goals apiece from Tomas Rosicky and Pavel Nedved. Milan Baros and Vratislav Lokvenc were also on the scoresheet.

**Group 4** had already been settled in favour of Sweden (automatic qualifiers) and Turkey (play-offs) and both countries finished the qualifiers in winning style, Sweden beating Azerbaijan 3-0 and the Turks winning by the same scoreline in Moldova.

Poland, already confirmed as the winners of **Group 5**, played host to Ukraine in Chorzow. The Ukrainians needed a point to claim the play-off spot and duly got it, but only after Andrii Shevchenko had scored an 81st-minute equaliser, a tap-in after Polish keeper Jerzy Dudek had spilled a cross. Shevchenko's

On target...Del Piero hits Italy's winner against Hungary

goal cancelled out Emmanuel Olisadebe's 40th-minute opener for Poland.

Belarus, without key players Valentin Bialkevich and Alexandre Khatskevich but chasing the play-off spot, were beaten 1-0 by a Wales side previously without a win in 12 games.

Spain had already qualified as **Group 7** winners but the identity of the runners-up remained undecided after the game between Israel and Austria was cancelled after a Russian aeroplane crashed after leaving Tel Aviv airport. Nine Austrian players had already refused to travel to the Israeli capital for the game, and FIFA postponed the encounter pending the results of an inquiry into the crash. Austria needed only to draw to claim second place in the group.

● France's friendly against Algeria at Stade de France was abandoned 15 minutes from time after a pitch invasion by Algerian fans. The match, which France were winning 4-1, was the first between the countries since Algeria's independence from French rule in 1962.

Losing it?...Bierhoff (centre) could be axed after failing to score v Finland

# We'll make it third time lucky, says Shevchenko

## Ukraine ready to lay to rest their play-off hoodoo

UKRAINE face Germany in a two-legged play-off for a place in next summer's finals. If they win it, it will be at the third attempt, having lost out to Croatia for a place at the 1998 World Cup, and to Slovenia in a Euro 2000 play-off.

Striker Andrii Shevchenko is upbeat about his country's chances of reaching their first major finals. "We learned an important lesson from the play-off defeat against Slovenia," he says.

"Since then we've became more mature and experienced. Germany may be favourites, but they are not as strong as they used to be and we have a clear chance to reach the finals."

Shevchenko is Ukraine's key man, alongside fellow forward Serhii Rebrov and defender and captain Oleh Luzhnyi. However, the latter pair's lack of first-team action could count against them, while goalkeeper remains a problem position following injuries to first-choice Olexander Shovkovskyi and the death of Serhii Perkhun, reported last month.

Given the problems caused by Michael Owen and Emile Heskey to the German defence in Munich last month, Ukraine coach Valerii Lobanovskyi could opt for an aggressive forward line in the first leg in Kyiv. Shevchenko could play in a withdrawn role behind Rebrov and Andrii Vorobei.

Germany coach Rudi Voller insists that he will stick by the players who were beaten so comprehensively by England and then held 0-0 by Finland.

"The squad will include the same players used up to now, as well as others who have recovered from injury," Voller said, hinting that Oliver Bierhoff could be dropped and replaced by a fit-again Carsten Jancker.

At least Voller has been boosted by the return to training of Bayern Munich's Jens Jeremies, sidelined for five months with a knee injury. But there remains the prospect that Germany could be absent from the World Cup finals for the first time since 1950, when they were prevented from competing in the qualifiers in the aftermath of World War II.

In the other play-offs, the Czech Republic will fancy their chances against Belgium after an emphatic victory over Bulgaria in their final group game. The Czechs will be without Borussia Dortmund striker Jan Koller, suspended after being sent off against Iceland, but confidence is high. Defender Tomas Repka says: "There is a 90 per cent chance that we will go to the World Cup."

The Belgians were criticised for their lacklustre performance against Croatia, with former coach Georges Leekens observing: "We didn't have a single chance and never got our game together."

But the Belgians have been making steady progress under Leekens' successor, Robert Waseige, and in Wesley Sonck have a star in the making.

Gheorghe Hagi faces the biggest challenge yet in his short managerial career, with Romania drawn against Slovenia. Cosmin Contra and Cristian Chivu are back from suspension, but Viorel Moldovan is still on the injured list. Slovenia, who surprised many at Euro 2000 with their organised and purposeful play, will again rely on the mercurial Zlatko Zahovic.

Uncertainty surrounds the remaining two play-offs. With the Group 7 match between Israel and Austria still to be resolved, Turkey were left not knowing who their opponents would be, nor when the games would be played.

The Republic of Ireland, although presented with the easiest draw, against the winners of the Asian play-off, also were unsure as to whether the security situation would allow them to play their opponents over two legs.

"Even if it's a one-off game on neutral territory we'll be ready," said manager Mick McCarthy.

*Gavin Hamilton*

Place booked...China's players can't hide their delight after the 1-0 win over Oman which put them in the World Cup finals

# Bora doubt as China make history

## Milutinovic's men have qualified for their first World Cup – but the coach may not be around for the finals. Michael Church reports

CHINA are celebrating after reaching the World Cup finals for the first time – but the man who steered them there, coach Bora Milutinovic, may not be in charge for the Korea/Japan extravaganza.

The much-travelled Serb saw his side secure their place two games from the end of the Asian qualifying tournament by beating Oman 1-0 in Shenyang. The outcome underlined their supremacy in what was always considered something of an easy group.

Five wins and a draw in their first six games sent China through to Korea and Japan with comfort. But while much of the acclaim has been heaped on Milutinovic's shoulders, his future looks uncertain. The Chinese FA is stalling on whether to extend the contract of the former Nigeria, United States, Mexico and Costa Rica coach to include the finals.

Even Milutinovic himself is unsure. "My contract with the Chinese FA was to take the team to the World Cup, so whether I stay or leave is not important," he said after the win over Oman.

The CFA have remained mute on the issue, with only Zhang Jilong, vice-president of the federation, giving any clarification of the situation.

"Bora's contract ends in January and, before that, we need to sit down and talk with him," he said. "But nothing is guaranteed." Already the Chinese media have linked Shen Xiangfu with the post after he led the national Under-20 team to the second phase of the World Youth Cup in Argentina earlier this year.

Milutinovic could be about to become another casualty of the collapse of ISL, who had previously held the marketing contract for the Chinese national team. That deal included the hiring and paying of the coach and, with Milutinovic earning in the region of £700,000 a year, that burden may be too much for the CFA to handle.

However, given the £300,000 bonuses reportedly paid out to each player on the successful completion of the qualifying phase, money should not be hard to come by for a Chinese footballing market that is set to boom.

While Milutinovic has been the obvious focus for the world's media, it was a combination of luck and skill that saw the Chinese through. The largest slice of luck came back on June 1, when they were drawn in Group B with the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Uzbekistan and Oman, avoiding both Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Asian Football Confederation's decision to seed the UAE instead of Iran gifted China a straightforward run at their first qualification, and they were not about to mess it up. And since co-hosts Japan and Korea, two of the region's strongest powers, were out of the equation, this was always going to be China's best chance to finally qualify.

A good start against the Emirates, a 3-0 win at home, set them up for an impressive run during which they dropped just two points – in the 1-1 draw away to Qatar.

For the first time in this qualifying campaign, China showed some determination and spirit. Where once they would have choked and hung their heads, they battled back from some difficult situations.

Against Qatar in Doha they trailed until the last minute, when defender Li Weifeng saved the day with the equaliser, while two goals in the last 20 minutes saw off Oman in Muscat after the hosts had missed a first-half penalty.

Led by the commanding Fan Zhiyi, China looked composed and impressive, even when they were under the cosh, as they were in the second half away to the UAE, when the Emirates needed a win to re-ignite their challenge. China held on to their single-goal lead to earn a priceless victory.

Inevitably, the performances have already alerted European clubs. Sun Jihai, no stranger to Crystal Palace fans, was impressive throughout the qualifiers and has attracted the attentions of Milan and Torino.

Li Tie, seen by many as the team's heart and soul during these qualifiers, has reportedly agreed to join Ajax after showing how much he has matured since the Chinese missed out on France 98. Still only 24, the Liaoning midfielder has added an impressive range of passing to his tough tackling.

Li Weifeng, who deputised so well for Zhang Enhua that the Dalian player was unable to regain his place when he recovered from injury, is another attracting interest as the Chinese look to follow their Japanese and Korean counterparts into the big leagues.

While China went about winning Group B with ease, the fight for second place was going down to the wire. The UAE defeated Qatar to leapfrog their opponents into the runners-up slot with the teams separated by a point and with one game to play. Uzbekistan, too, had a chance of taking second place – the route to the Asian play-off – but faced a tough final game against China.

Iran and Saudi Arabia were guaranteed to take the top two spots in Group A, with Iran two points behind the Saudis but with a game in hand. The turning point of the group came in the dying minutes of the clash between the two nations in Jeddah when a defensive error let in Sirous Din Mohammadi for Iran's equaliser, putting Miroslav Blazevic's side in control of their own destiny.

Bahrain's challenge was ended by consecutive defeats at the hands of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

# Ecuador almost there

One point against Uruguay will put the Andean nation on the world's biggest stage for the first time, writes Brian Homewood

ECUADOR are one point from going to the World Cup for the first time after ending Bolivia's 16-year unbeaten home run in qualifying matches with a resounding 5-1 win in La Paz.

That, plus Uruguay's 1-1 draw at home to Colombia, means a draw with Uruguay in Quito on November 7 will be enough to send the Andean nation – more famous for its volcanoes and the Galapagos Islands than its football – to Japan and South Korea.

Ecuador had the game virtually wrapped up in the first half-hour when Ulises De la Cruz and Agustin Delgado, with his ninth goal of the qualifiers, put them 2-0 up, while Bolivia had defender Marcelo Carballo sent off.

Ivan Kaviedes added a third after the break; Gonzalo Galindo pulled one back, but substitutes Angel Fernandez and Luis Gomes scored in the last four minutes to turn the win into a rout.

After the 16th round of matches, Paraguay, Ecuador and Brazil now look set to join Argentina in qualifying directly while Uruguay appear to be heading for the play-off against Australia.

Paraguay need only two points from their last two games after drawing 2-2 with Argentina in Asuncion in an incident-packed affair. Gabriel Batistuta, recalled for his first international in a year, celebrated by scoring the final goal as Argentina twice came from behind to extend their unbeaten run to 12 games and end Paraguay's 100 per cent home record. Once again, Argentina appeared to get assistance from the 'Hand of God' as TV replays suggested defender Mauricio Pochettino punched their first goal into the net. "It went in off my shoulder," claimed Pochettino, unconvincingly.

Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, playing against the team he loves to hate, opened the scoring from a penalty, his fourth goal of the qualifiers – making him his team's second top scorer. Gustavo Morinigo put Paraguay back in front in the 70th minute before Batistuta struck.

Paraguay stayed second with 30 points, nine behind Argentina, who made sure of finishing top. Ecuador are third with 29, followed by Brazil (27), Uruguay (25) and Colombia (21).

Brazil struggled for 45 minutes to break down a Chile team playing their first match under Jorge Garces, their third coach in six months. The four-times world champions came to life after the break when Denilson appeared as a substitute and eventually won with goals by Edilson and Rivaldo.

After a tumultuous campaign in which they have employed four coaches, Brazil finish with relatively easy games against Bolivia and Venezuela and should now maintain their proud record as the only country to have played at every World Cup.

Like Ecuador, they were helped by Uruguay's failure to beat Colombia in the Centenario stadium – where Uruguay won the first World Cup Final in 1930. Federico Magallanes put them ahead from a penalty but Arnulfo Valentierra equalised to keep Colombia in with a mathematical chance of making their fourth successive World Cup. It was their first point in four games since Francisco Maturana took over for his latest stint in charge.

The other game, between two teams out of the running, was still remarkable for the result: Venezuela 3 Peru 0. Venezuela, who had won only two qualifiers before the current campaign, claimed both their third successive victory and clean sheet. They even moved off the bottom of the table, at the expense of Chile.

Marching on...Ivan Kaviedes (centre) tussles with the Bolivian defence during Ecuador's 5-1 win in La Paz

# USA make it four in a row

## Paul Gardner on how the Americans took advantage of a surprise slip-up by Honduras

THE USA will be going to Korea/Japan, to their fourth consecutive World Cup, but it cannot be said that they qualified in great style.

With two games left to play, the USA were in trouble, needing to win both to be certain of qualifying. That scenario, of course, was based on the likely results among the other four teams of the final CONCACAF group.

In particular, it assumed that Honduras, playing at home, would have no trouble beating Trinidad & Tobago – without a win in their last eight games and already eliminated after a disastrous campaign in which their two main stars, Dwight Yorke and Russell Latapy, had quit the team.

That assumption became a near certainty in the 20th minute of the game, when T&T's Brent Rahim was sent off. Yet 70 minutes later, after Honduras had hit the woodwork three times in the second half, the near certainty had vanished. Ten-man T&T had done the impossible, beating Honduras 1-0 thanks to a superb goal from Stern John, and the bewildered Honduran players were forced to leave the field under police protection as their fans showered them with insults and threats.

While that drama was unfolding in Honduras, way up north in Boston the USA were finding Jamaica (another team with little or no chance of qualifying) very difficult opponents.

The game started in an atmosphere thick with tension – it was already known that US warplanes were bombing Afghanistan. "We told the players about the attack just before the kick-off," said coach Bruce Arena, "because it was fair for them to know."

"We knew we were at war," said Everton and USA striker Joe-Max Moore, "so it was pretty emotional during the national anthem, but after that we just focused on the game."

And it was Moore who got the Americans off to a dream start. In the fourth minute he flung himself forward to connect with a Claudio Reyna free-kick and score with a diving header.

The lead was short-lived. Ten minutes later Jamaica were level when Jamie Lawrence chested down a throw-in and was allowed room to turn and fire a low shot past Brad Friedel.

The USA dominated most of the subsequent play but created few real anxious moments for Aaron Lawrence in the Jamaica goal. The crucial moment arrived in the 81st minute when substitute defender Tyrone Marshall brought down the USA's teenage star Landon Donovan. Moore took the penalty, Lawrence dived the wrong way – and the USA were on their way to Korea/Japan.

The 2-1 win would not, of itself, have guaranteed them a place, but combined with Honduras' stunning defeat it meant that the USA had qualified.

US captain Reyna said: "We were a bit stunned, I have to admit, the way things worked out. We all expected to have to get a win in Trinidad." That will be the USA's final game and is now a totally meaningless encounter.

On our way...two-goal Joe-Max Moore gets a hug from John O'Brien

> 'We were a bit stunned, I have to admit, the way things worked out. We all expected to have to get a win in our final game, against Trinidad'
>
> *USA captain Claudio Reyna*

"I'm feeling pretty good right now," said Dr Bob Contiguglia, president of the US Soccer Federation, "I think Arena has done a great job with what he had – I mean with the long-term injuries to Clint Mathis, Josh Wolff and Ben Olsen, and then John O'Brien and Claudio not being fit for several games. To adapt to losing players like that hasn't been easy."

Asked what he expects from the team in the finals, Contiguglia replied: "Our aim is to get through the first round – so the draw becomes an important factor.

"From now on we're going to be tested because we're setting up a series of exhibition games with top teams. We'll be playing South Korea on December 9, and a lot of countries from Europe and South America have been in touch with us."

Arena said: "In all honesty, we deserve to be through. I'm proud of our team. Now we have seven months to improve. I'm optimistic you'll see a better US team at the World Cup."

With Costa Rica and the USA now qualified, the third CONCACAF slot will go to either Honduras or Mexico. The two meet in Mexico in the last game of the qualifying competition on November 11.

The odds are heavily against Honduras's redemption – Mexico need only a draw, and the game will be played in the Azteca stadium, where the Mexicans have lost only once in a World Cup qualifier.

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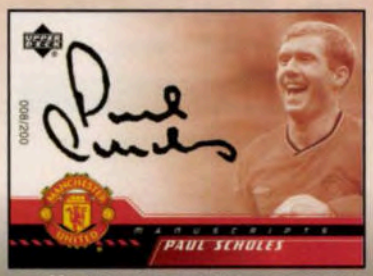


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## INTRODUCING THE 2001/2002 UPPER DECK MANCHESTER UNITED TRADING CARD SET.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

# RESULTS

## ASIA

**2 or 3 teams qualify, plus hosts Japan and South Korea**

### SECOND ROUND

#### Group A

17.08.01.....Iraq-Thailand.....4-0
17.08.01.....Saudi Arabia-Bahrain.....1-1
23.08.01.....Bahrain-Iraq.....2-0
24.08.01.....Iran-Saudi Arabia.....2-0
31.08.01.....Saudi Arabia-Iraq.....1-0
01.09.01.....Thailand-Iran.....0-0
06.09.01.....Bahrain-Thailand.....1-1
07.09.01.....Iraq-Iran.....1-2
14.09.01.....Iran-Bahrain.....0-0
15.09.01.....Thailand-Saudi Arabia.....1-3
21.09.01.....Bahrain-Saudi Arabia.....0-4
22.09.01.....Thailand-Iraq.....1-1
28.09.01.....Iraq-Bahrain.....1-0
28.09.01.....Saudi Arabia-Iran.....2-2
05.10.01.....Iran-Thailand.....1-0
05.10.01.....Iraq-Saudi Arabia.....1-2
12.10.01.....Iran-Iraq
13.10.01.....Thailand-Bahrain
19.10.01.....Bahrain-Iran
19.10.01.....Saudi Arabia-Thailand

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saudi Arabia | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 14 |
| Iran | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 12 |
| Iraq | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Bahrain | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| Thailand | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 3 |

#### Group B

16.08.01.....Qatar-Oman.....0-0
17.08.01.....United Arab Emirates-Uzbekistan...4-1
25.08.01.....China-United Arab Emirates.....3-0
26.08.01.....Uzbekistan-Qatar.....2-1
31.08.01.....United Arab Emirates-Qatar.....0-2
31.08.01.....Oman-China.....0-2
07.09.01.....Qatar-China.....1-1
08.09.01.....Uzbekistan-Oman.....5-0
14.09.01.....Oman-United Arab Emirates.....1-1
15.09.01.....China-Uzbekistan.....2-0
21.09.01.....Oman-Qatar.....0-3
22.09.01.....Uzbekistan-United Arab Emirates...0-1
27.09.01.....United Arab Emirates-China.....0-1
28.09.01.....Qatar-Uzbekistan.....2-2
04.10.01.....Qatar-United Arab Emirates.....1-2
07.10.01.....China-Oman.....1-0
13.10.01.....Oman-Uzbekistan
13.10.01.....China-Qatar
19.10.01.....United Arab Emirates-Oman
19.10.01.....Uzbekistan-China

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| China* | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 16 |
| UAE | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Qatar | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| Uzbekistan | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| Oman | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 2 |

*China qualify for finals

*Ties played on a home and away basis.The two group winners qualify directly for the finals. The two runners-up play-off home and away (ties to be played on October 25 and October 31), the winners going on to meet the Republic of Ireland in a play-off.*

### ASIAN/EUROPEAN PLAY-OFF

10.11.01.....Rep of Ireland-Asian 3rd-place
15.11.01.....Asian 3rd-place-Rep of Ireland

*The match winners qualify for the finals.*

## EUROPE

**13 or 14 teams qualify, plus holders France**

#### Group 1

02.09.00.....Switzerland-Russia.....0-1
03.09.00.....Faroe Islands-Slovenia.....2-2
03.09.00.....Luxembourg-Yugoslavia.....0-2
07.10.00.....Luxembourg-Slovenia.....1-2
07.10.00.....Switzerland-Faroe Islands.....5-1
11.10.00.....Russia-Luxembourg.....3-0
11.10.00.....Slovenia-Switzerland.....2-2
24.03.01.....Luxembourg-Faroe Islands.....0-2
24.03.01.....Russia-Slovenia.....1-1
24.03.01.....Yugoslavia-Switzerland.....1-1
28.03.01.....Russia-Faroe Islands.....1-0
28.03.01.....Slovenia-Yugoslavia.....1-1
28.03.01.....Switzerland-Luxembourg.....5-0
25.04.01.....Yugoslavia-Russia.....0-1
02.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Switzerland.....0-1
02.06.01.....Russia-Yugoslavia.....1-1
02.06.01.....Slovenia-Luxembourg.....2-0
06.06.01.....Faroe Islands-Yugoslavia.....0-6
06.06.01.....Luxembourg-Russia.....1-2
06.06.01.....Switzerland-Slovenia.....0-1
15.08.01.....Yugoslavia-Faroe Islands.....2-0
01.09.01.....Faroe Islands-Luxembourg.....1-0
01.09.01.....Slovenia-Russia.....2-1
01.09.01.....Switzerland-Yugoslavia.....1-2
05.09.01.....Faroe Islands-Russia.....0-3
05.09.01.....Luxembourg-Switzerland.....0-3
05.09.01.....Yugoslavia-Slovenia.....1-1
06.10.01.....Russia-Switzerland.....4-0
06.10.01.....Slovenia-Faroe Islands.....3-0
06.10.01.....Yugoslavia-Luxembourg.....6-2

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Russia* | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 5 | 23 |
| Slovenia | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 17 | 9 | 20 |
| Yugoslavia | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 22 | 8 | 19 |
| Switzerland | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 12 | 14 |
| Faroe Islands | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 23 | 7 |
| Luxembourg | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 28 | 0 |

*Russia qualify for finals

#### Group 2

16.08.00.....Estonia-Andorra.....1-0
02.09.00.....Andorra-Cyprus.....2-3
02.09.00.....Holland-Rep of Ireland.....2-2
03.09.00.....Estonia-Portugal.....1-3
07.10.00.....Andorra-Estonia.....1-2
07.10.00.....Cyprus-Holland.....0-4
07.10.00.....Portugal-Rep of Ireland.....1-1
11.10.00.....Holland-Portugal.....0-2
11.10.00.....Rep of Ireland-Estonia.....2-0
15.11.00.....Cyprus-Andorra.....5-0
28.02.01.....Portugal-Andorra.....3-0
24.03.01.....Andorra-Holland.....0-5
24.03.01.....Cyprus-Rep of Ireland.....0-4
28.03.01.....Andorra-Rep of Ireland.....0-3
28.03.01.....Cyprus-Estonia.....2-2
28.03.01.....Portugal-Holland.....2-2
25.04.01.....Holland-Cyprus.....4-0
25.04.01.....Rep of Ireland-Andorra.....3-1
02.06.01.....Estonia-Holland.....2-4
02.06.01.....Rep of Ireland-Portugal.....1-1
06.06.01.....Estonia-Rep of Ireland.....0-2
06.06.01.....Portugal-Cyprus.....6-0
15.08.01.....Estonia-Cyprus.....2-2
01.09.01.....Andorra-Portugal.....1-7
01.09.01.....Rep of Ireland-Holland.....1-0
05.09.01.....Cyprus-Portugal.....1-3
05.09.01.....Holland-Estonia.....5-0
06.10.01.....Holland-Andorra.....4-0
06.10.01.....Portugal-Estonia.....5-0
06.10.01.....Rep of Ireland-Cyprus.....4-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portugal* | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 7 | 24 |
| Rep of Ireland | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 23 | 5 | 24 |
| Holland | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 30 | 9 | 20 |
| Estonia | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 26 | 8 |
| Cyprus | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 31 | 8 |
| Andorra | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 36 | 0 |

*Portugal qualify for finals

#### Group 3

02.09.00.....Bulgaria-Czech Republic.....0-1
02.09.00.....Iceland-Denmark.....1-2
02.09.00.....Northern Ireland-Malta.....1-0
07.10.00.....Bulgaria-Malta.....3-0
07.10.00.....Czech Republic-Iceland.....4-0
07.10.00.....Northern Ireland-Denmark.....1-1
11.10.00.....Denmark-Bulgaria.....1-1
11.10.00.....Iceland-Northern Ireland.....1-0
11.10.00.....Malta-Czech Republic.....0-0
24.03.01.....Bulgaria-Iceland.....2-1
24.03.01.....Malta-Denmark.....0-5
24.03.01.....Northern Ireland-Czech Republic...0-1
28.03.01.....Bulgaria-Northern Ireland.....4-3
28.03.01.....Czech Republic-Denmark.....0-0
25.04.01.....Malta-Iceland.....1-4
02.06.01.....Denmark-Czech Republic.....2-1
02.06.01.....Iceland-Malta.....3-0
02.06.01.....Northern Ireland-Bulgaria.....0-1
06.06.01.....Czech Republic-Northern Ireland...3-1
06.06.01.....Denmark-Malta.....2-1
06.06.01.....Iceland-Bulgaria.....1-1
01.09.01.....Denmark-Northern Ireland.....1-1
01.09.01.....Iceland-Czech Republic.....3-1
01.09.01.....Malta-Bulgaria.....0-2
05.09.01.....Bulgaria-Denmark.....0-2
05.09.01.....Czech Republic-Malta.....3-2
05.09.01.....Northern Ireland-Iceland.....3-0
06.10.01.....Czech Republic-Bulgaria.....6-0
06.10.01.....Denmark-Iceland.....6-0
06.10.01.....Malta-Northern Ireland.....0-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark* | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 22 | 6 | 22 |
| Czech Republic | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 8 | 20 |
| Bulgaria | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 15 | 17 |
| Iceland | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 20 | 13 |
| Northern Ireland | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| Malta | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 24 | 1 |

*Denmark qualify for finals

#### Group 4

02.09.00.....Azerbaijan-Sweden.....0-1
02.09.00.....Turkey-Moldova.....2-0
03.09.00.....Slovakia-Macedonia.....2-0
06.10.00.....Macedonia-Azerbaijan.....3-0
07.10.00.....Moldova-Slovakia.....0-1
07.10.00.....Sweden-Turkey.....1-1
11.10.00.....Azerbaijan-Turkey.....0-1
11.10.00.....Moldova-Macedonia.....0-0
11.10.00.....Slovakia-Sweden.....0-0
24.03.01.....Azerbaijan-Moldova.....0-0
24.03.01.....Sweden-Macedonia.....1-0
24.03.01.....Turkey-Slovakia.....1-1
28.03.01.....Macedonia-Turkey.....1-2
28.03.01.....Moldova-Sweden.....0-2
28.03.01.....Slovakia-Azerbaijan.....3-1
02.06.01.....Macedonia-Moldova.....2-2
02.06.01.....Sweden-Slovakia.....2-0
02.06.01.....Turkey-Azerbaijan.....3-0
06.06.01.....Azerbaijan-Slovakia.....2-0

#### Group 5

02.09.00.....Belarus-Wales.....2-1
02.09.00.....Norway-Armenia.....0-0
02.09.00.....Ukraine-Poland.....1-3
07.10.00.....Armenia-Ukraine.....2-3
07.10.00.....Poland-Belarus.....3-1
07.10.00.....Wales-Norway.....1-1
11.10.00.....Belarus-Armenia.....2-1
11.10.00.....Norway-Ukraine.....0-1
11.10.00.....Poland-Wales.....0-0
24.03.01.....Armenia-Wales.....2-2
24.03.01.....Norway-Poland.....2-3
24.03.01.....Ukraine-Belarus.....0-0
28.03.01.....Belarus-Norway.....2-1
28.03.01.....Poland-Armenia.....4-0
28.03.01.....Wales-Ukraine.....1-1
02.06.01.....Armenia-Belarus.....0-0
02.06.01.....Ukraine-Norway.....0-0
02.06.01.....Wales-Poland.....1-2
06.06.01.....Armenia-Poland.....1-1
06.06.01.....Norway-Belarus.....1-1
06.06.01.....Ukraine-Wales.....1-1
01.09.01.....Belarus-Ukraine.....0-2
01.09.01.....Poland-Norway.....3-0
01.09.01.....Wales-Armenia.....0-0
05.09.01.....Belarus-Poland.....4-1
05.09.01.....Norway-Wales.....3-2
05.09.01.....Ukraine-Armenia.....3-0
06.10.01.....Armenia-Norway.....1-4
06.10.01.....Poland-Ukraine.....1-1
06.10.01.....Wales-Belarus.....1-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poland* | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 21 | 11 | 21 |
| Ukraine | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 13 | 8 | 17 |
| Belarus | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 15 |
| Norway | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 14 | 10 |
| Wales | 10 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 9 |
| Armenia | 10 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 19 | 5 |

*Poland qualify for finals

**Middle man...Rivaldo of Brazil takes possession against Chile**

06.06.01.....Sweden-Moldova.....6-0
06.06.01.....Turkey-Macedonia.....3-3
01.09.01.....Macedonia-Sweden.....1-2
01.09.01.....Moldova-Azerbaijan.....2-0
01.09.01.....Slovakia-Turkey.....0-1
05.09.01.....Azerbaijan-Macedonia.....1-1
05.09.01.....Slovakia-Moldova.....4-2
05.09.01.....Turkey-Sweden.....1-2
06.10.01.....Moldova-Turkey.....0-3
07.10.01.....Macedonia-Slovakia.....0-5
07.10.01.....Sweden-Azerbaijan.....3-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sweden* | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 3 | 26 |
| Turkey | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 8 | 21 |
| Slovakia | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 9 | 17 |
| Macedonia | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 7 |
| Moldova | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 6 |
| Azerbaijan | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 17 | 5 |

*Sweden qualify for finals

#### Group 6

02.09.00.....Belgium-Croatia.....0-0
02.09.00.....Latvia-Scotland.....0-1
07.10.00.....Latvia-Belgium.....0-4
07.10.00.....San Marino-Scotland.....0-2
11.10.00.....Croatia-Scotland.....1-1
15.11.00.....San Marino-Latvia.....0-1
28.02.01.....Belgium-San Marino.....10-1
24.03.01.....Croatia-Latvia.....4-1
24.03.01.....Scotland-Belgium.....2-2
28.03.01.....Scotland-San Marino.....4-0
25.04.01.....Latvia-San Marino.....1-1
02.06.01.....Belgium-Latvia.....3-1
02.06.01.....Croatia-San Marino.....4-0
06.06.01.....Latvia-Croatia.....0-1
06.06.01.....San Marino-Belgium.....1-4
01.09.01.....Scotland-Croatia.....0-0
05.09.01.....Belgium-Scotland.....2-0
05.09.01.....San Marino-Croatia.....0-4

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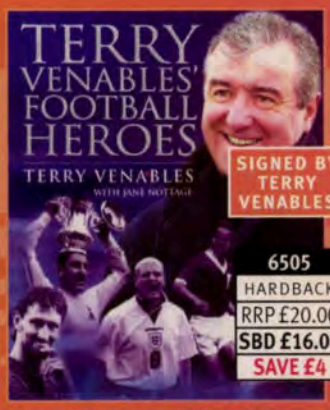


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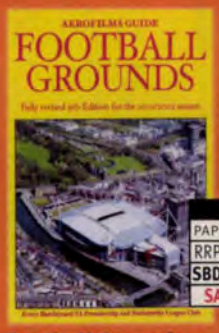


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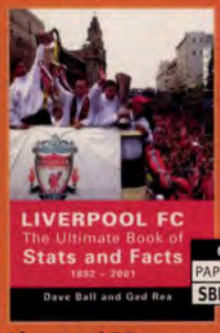


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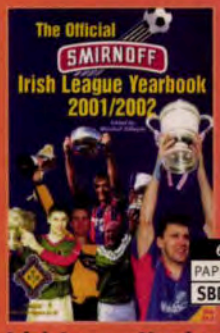


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2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

# RESULTS

06.10.01 .....Croatia-Belgium .....1-0
06.10.01 .....Scotland-Latvia .....2-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Croatia* | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 18 |
| Belgium | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 25 | 6 | 17 |
| Scotland | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 15 |
| Latvia | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 16 | 4 |
| San Marino | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 30 | 1 |

*Croatia qualify for finals

### Group 7

02.09.00 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain .....1-2
03.09.00 .....Israel-Liechtenstein .....2-0
07.10.00 .....Liechtenstein-Austria .....0-1
07.10.00 .....Spain-Israel .....2-0
11.10.00 .....Austria-Spain .....1-1
11.10.00 .....Israel-Bosnia-Herzegovina .....3-1
24.03.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Austria .....1-1
24.03.01 .....Spain-Liechtenstein .....5-0
28.03.01 .....Austria-Israel .....2-1
28.03.01 .....Liechtenstein-Bosnia-Herz .....0-3
25.04.01 .....Austria-Liechtenstein .....2-0
02.06.01 .....Liechtenstein-Israel .....0-3
02.06.01 .....Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina .....4-1
06.06.01 .....Israel-Spain .....1-1
01.09.01 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Israel .....0-0
01.09.01 .....Spain-Austria .....4-0
05.09.01 .....Austria-Bosnia-Herzegovina .....2-0
05.09.01 .....Liechtenstein-Spain .....0-2
07.10.01 .....Bosnia-Herz-Liechtenstein .....5-0
tba .....Israel-Austria

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain* | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 21 | 4 | 20 |
| Austria | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 14 |
| Israel | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 11 |
| Bosnia-Herz | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 8 |
| Liechtenstein | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 23 | 0 |

*Spain qualify for finals

### Group 8

03.09.00 .....Hungary-Italy .....2-2
03.09.00 .....Romania-Lithuania .....1-0
07.10.00 .....Italy-Romania .....3-0
07.10.00 .....Lithuania-Georgia .....0-4
11.10.00 .....Italy-Georgia .....2-0
11.10.00 .....Lithuania-Hungary .....1-6
24.03.01 .....Hungary-Lithuania .....1-1
24.03.01 .....Romania-Italy .....0-2
28.03.01 .....Georgia-Romania .....0-2
28.03.01 .....Italy-Lithuania .....4-0
02.06.01 .....Georgia-Italy .....1-2
02.06.01 .....Romania-Hungary .....2-0
06.06.01 .....Hungary-Georgia .....4-1
06.06.01 .....Lithuania-Romania .....1-2
01.09.01 .....Georgia-Hungary .....3-1
01.09.01 .....Lithuania-Italy .....0-0
05.09.01 .....Georgia-Lithuania .....2-0
05.09.01 .....Hungary-Romania .....0-2
06.10.01 .....Italy-Hungary .....1-0
06.10.01 .....Romania-Georgia .....1-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Italy* | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 20 |
| Romania | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 16 |
| Georgia | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 10 |
| Hungary | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 8 |
| Lithuania | 8 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 20 | 2 |

*Italy qualify for finals

### Group 9

02.09.00.....Finland-Albania .....2-1
02.09.00.....Germany-Greece .....2-0
07.10.00.....England-Germany .....0-1
07.10.00.....Greece-Finland .....1-0
11.10.00.....Albania-Greece .....2-0
11.10.00.....Finland-England .....0-0
24.03.01.....England-Finland .....2-1
24.03.01.....Germany-Albania .....2-1
28.03.01.....Albania-England .....1-3
28.03.01.....Greece-Germany .....2-4
02.06.01.....Finland-Germany .....2-2
02.06.01.....Greece-Albania .....1-0
06.06.01.....Albania-Germany .....0-2
06.06.01.....Greece-England .....0-2
01.09.01.....Albania-Finland .....0-2
01.09.01.....Germany-England .....1-5
05.09.01.....England-Albania .....2-0
05.09.01.....Finland-Greece .....5-1
06.10.01.....England-Greece .....2-2
06.10.01.....Germany-Finland .....0-0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England* | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 17 |
| Germany | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 10 | 17 |
| Finland | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 12 |
| Greece | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 7 |
| Albania | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 3 |

*England qualify for finals

*Group runners-up enter the play-offs*

## PLAY-OFFS

*1st legs*
10/11.11.01 ...Slovenia-Romania
10/11.11.01 ...Ukraine-Germany
10/11.11.01 ...Belgium-Czech Republic
10/11.11.01 ...Austria or Israel-Turkey
10.11.01 .....Rep of Ireland-3rd-placed Asian team

*2nd legs*
13/14.11.01 ...Romania-Slovenia
13/14.11.01 ...Germany-Ukraine
13/14.11.01 ...Czech Republic-Belgium
13/14.11.01 ...Turkey-Austria or Israel
15.11.01 .....3rd-placed Asian team-Rep of Ireland

*The five match winners qualify for the finals.*

# THE FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

**3 teams qualify**

## FINAL ROUND

28.02.01 .....Costa Rica-Honduras .....2-2
28.02.01 .....Jamaica-Trinidad & Tobago .....1-0
28.02.01 .....United States-Mexico .....2-0
25.03.01 .....Mexico-Jamaica .....4-0
28.03.01 .....Costa Rica-Trinidad & Tobago .....3-0
28.03.01 .....Honduras-United States .....1-2
25.04.01 .....Jamaica-Honduras .....1-1
25.04.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico .....1-1
25.04.01 .....United States-Costa Rica .....1-0
16.06.01 .....Jamaica-United States .....0-0
16.06.01 .....Mexico-Costa Rica .....1-2
16.06.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Honduras .....2-4
20.06.01 .....Costa Rica-Jamaica .....2-1
20.06.01 .....Honduras-Mexico .....3-1
20.06.01 .....United States-Trinidad & Tobago .....2-0
30.06.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Jamaica .....1-2
01.07.01 .....Honduras-Costa Rica .....2-3
01.07.01 .....Mexico-United States .....1-0
01.09.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-Costa Rica .....0-2
01.09.01 .....United States-Honduras .....2-3
02.09.01 .....Jamaica-Mexico .....1-2
05.09.01 .....Costa Rica-United States .....2-0
05.09.01 .....Honduras-Jamaica .....1-0
05.09.01 .....Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago .....3-0
07.10.01 .....Costa Rica-Mexico .....0-0
07.10.01 .....Honduras-Trinidad & Tobago .....0-1
07.10.01 .....United States-Jamaica .....2-1
11.11.01 .....Jamaica-Costa Rica
11.11.01 .....Mexico-Honduras
11.11.01 .....Trinidad & Tobago-United States

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Costa Rica* | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 20 |
| United States* | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 16 |
| Mexico | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 14 |
| Honduras | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 14 | 14 |
| Jamaica | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 8 |
| Trinidad & Tob | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 4 |

*Costa Rica and United States qualify for finals

*The top three qualify for the finals.*

# SOUTH AMERICA

**4 or 5 teams qualify**

28.03.00 .....Colombia-Brazil .....0-0
29.03.00 .....Argentina-Chile .....4-1
29.03.00 .....Ecuador-Venezuela .....2-0
29.03.00 .....Peru-Paraguay .....2-0
29.03.00 .....Uruguay-Bolivia .....1-0
26.04.00 .....Bolivia-Colombia .....1-1
26.04.00 .....Brazil-Ecuador .....3-2
26.04.00 .....Chile-Peru .....1-1
26.04.00 .....Paraguay-Uruguay .....1-0
26.04.00 .....Venezuela-Argentina .....0-4
03.06.00 .....Paraguay-Ecuador .....3-1
03.06.00 .....Uruguay-Chile .....2-1
04.06.00 .....Argentina-Bolivia .....1-0
04.06.00 .....Colombia-Venezuela .....3-0
04.06.00 .....Peru-Brazil .....0-1
28.06.00 .....Brazil-Uruguay .....1-1
28.06.00 .....Venezuela-Bolivia .....4-2
29.06.00 .....Chile-Paraguay .....3-1
29.06.00 .....Colombia-Argentina .....1-3
29.06.00 .....Ecuador-Peru .....2-1
18.07.00 .....Paraguay-Brazil .....2-1
18.07.00 .....Uruguay-Venezuela .....3-1
19.07.00 .....Argentina-Ecuador .....2-0
19.07.00 .....Bolivia-Chile .....1-0
19.07.00 .....Peru-Colombia .....0-1
25.07.00 .....Ecuador-Colombia .....0-0
25.07.00 .....Venezuela-Chile .....0-2
26.07.00 .....Brazil-Argentina .....3-1
26.07.00 .....Uruguay-Peru .....0-0
27.07.00 .....Bolivia-Paraguay .....0-0
15.08.00 .....Chile-Brazil .....3-0
15.08.00 .....Colombia-Uruguay .....1-0
16.08.00 .....Argentina-Paraguay .....1-1
16.08.00 .....Ecuador-Bolivia .....2-0
16.08.00 .....Peru-Venezuela .....1-0
02.09.00 .....Chile-Colombia .....0-1
02.09.00 .....Paraguay-Venezuela .....3-0
03.09.00 .....Brazil-Bolivia .....5-0
03.09.00 .....Peru-Argentina .....1-2
03.09.00 .....Uruguay-Ecuador .....4-0
07.10.00 .....Colombia-Paraguay .....0-2
08.10.00 .....Argentina-Uruguay .....2-1
08.10.00 .....Bolivia-Peru .....1-0
08.10.00 .....Ecuador-Chile .....1-0
08.10.00 .....Venezuela-Brazil .....0-6
15.11.00 .....Bolivia-Uruguay .....0-0
15.11.00 .....Brazil-Colombia .....1-0
15.11.00 .....Chile-Argentina .....0-2
15.11.00 .....Paraguay-Peru .....5-1
15.11.00 .....Venezuela-Ecuador .....1-2
27.03.01 .....Colombia-Bolivia .....2-0
27.03.01 .....Peru-Chile .....3-1
28.03.01 .....Argentina-Venezuela .....5-0
28.03.01 .....Ecuador-Brazil .....1-0
28.03.01 .....Uruguay-Paraguay .....0-1
24.04.01 .....Chile-Uruguay .....0-1
24.04.01 .....Ecuador-Paraguay .....2-1
24.04.01 .....Venezuela-Colombia .....2-2
25.04.01 .....Bolivia-Argentina .....3-3
25.04.01 .....Brazil-Peru .....1-1
02.06.01 .....Paraguay-Chile .....1-0
02.06.01 .....Peru-Ecuador .....1-2
03.06.01 .....Argentina-Colombia .....3-0
03.06.01 .....Bolivia-Venezuela .....5-0
01.07.01 .....Uruguay-Brazil .....1-0
14.08.01 .....Chile-Bolivia .....2-2
14.08.01 .....Venezuela-Uruguay .....2-0
15.08.01 .....Brazil-Paraguay .....2-0
15.08.01 .....Ecuador-Argentina .....0-2
16.08.01 .....Colombia-Peru .....0-1
04.09.01 .....Chile-Venezuela .....0-2
04.09.01 .....Peru-Uruguay .....0-2
05.09.01 .....Argentina-Brazil .....2-1
05.09.01 .....Colombia-Ecuador .....0-0
05.09.01 .....Paraguay-Bolivia .....5-1
06.10.01 .....Bolivia-Ecuador .....1-5
06.10.01 .....Venezuela-Peru .....3-0
07.10.01 .....Brazil-Chile .....2-0
07.10.01 .....Paraguay-Argentina .....2-2
07.10.01 .....Uruguay-Colombia .....1-1
07.11.01 .....Argentina-Peru
07.11.01 .....Bolivia-Brazil
07.11.01 .....Colombia-Chile
07.11.01 .....Ecuador-Uruguay
07.11.01 .....Venezuela-Paraguay
14.11.01 .....Brazil-Venezuela
14.11.01 .....Chile-Ecuador
14.11.01 .....Paraguay-Colombia
14.11.01 .....Peru-Bolivia
14.11.01 .....Uruguay-Argentina

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina* | 16 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 39 | 14 | 39 |
| Paraguay | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 28 | 16 | 30 |
| Ecuador | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 29 |
| Brazil | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 27 | 14 | 27 |
| Uruguay | 16 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 11 | 25 |
| Colombia | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 14 | 21 |
| Peru | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 22 | 15 |
| Bolivia | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 31 | 14 |
| Venezuela | 16 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 15 | 40 | 13 |
| Chile | 16 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 14 | 24 | 11 |

*Argentina qualify for finals

*The top four teams qualify automatically for the finals. The fifth-placed team play off against Australia for a place in the finals. First leg in Australia; matches must be played by November 25.*

**Aerial battle...Batistuta of Argentina vies with Paraguay's Ayala**

NOV 2001

THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

# WORLD SERVICE

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE MONTH'S STATS & FACTS

# INTERNATIONALS

## Thursday, September 13

*Sep 13 - Daejeon - friendly*
**South Korea 2** (Lee Chun-soo 66, Choi Yong-soo 78)
**Nigeria 2** (Ndukwe 10, 39)
**HT:** 0-2

## Friday, September 14

*Sep 14 - Tehran - WC qual*
**Iran 0**
**Bahrain 0**
**Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Mohd Salleh (Mly)
**Iran:** Mirzapour - Mahdavikia (Samereh 73), Minavand, Peyravani, Karimi, Daei, Vahedinikbakht, Khaziravi (Hasheminassab 85), Golmohammadi, Jamshidi (Bagheri 46), Rezaei.
**Bahrain:** Al-Ruwaie - Husain Mohamed, A Al-Dosery, Al-Kuwarie, Abdulrahaman, K Al-Doseri, Salmeen, Rashed, Yusuf Mohamed (Ali Ahmed 83), Ghuloom (A Abdullah 44), Al-Saadi (Musaifer 63).

*Sep 14 - Muscat - WC qual*
**Oman 1** (Nairooz 52)
**United Arab Emirates 1** (Mohamed 13)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Marshoud (Jor)
**Oman:** Al-Mazroi - Al-Hasni, Rabee, Al-Balushi (Ashoor 69), Samir, Al-Harbi, Al-Siyabi (Rashid 77), Jamaan, Al-Dhabit, N Z Al-Mukhaini, Nairooz (Al-Hadri 59).
**UAE:** Abdulla - Ibrahim Mohamed, Salim, F Ali, A S Jumaa (Sebait 64), Abdul Rahman, Y S Ali (H A Ali 60), A Mohamed, A R Jumaa, Rashed, Qassim (Masoud 71).

## Saturday, September 15

*Sep 15 - Shenyang - WC qual*
**China 2** (Li Weifeng 63, Fan Zhiyi 75)
**Uzbekistan 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 44,376. **Ref:** Kwon (SKo)
**China:** Jiang Jin (An Qi 78) - Wu Chengying, Fan Zhiyi, Sun Jihai, Li Tie, Ma Mingyu (Yang Pu 76), Hao Haidong, Li Weifeng, Li Xiaopeng, Qi Hong, Yang Cheng (Yu Genwei 83). *Sent off: Wu Chengying 74min.*
**Uzbekistan:** Polyakov - Ashurmatov, Kassymov, Lushan, Vlagrcher, Maminov, Irismetov (Alikulov 84), Faiziev, Khvostunov, Davletov (Akopyants 86), Shirshov. *Sent off: Lushan 68min.*

*Sep 15 - Bangkok - WC qual*
**Thailand 1** (Sakesan 28)
**Saudi Arabia 3** (Al-Jaber 47, Bin Shehan 63, O Al-Dosari 70)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Fuse (Jap)
**Thailand:** Kittisak - Niweat, Choketawee, Anuruck, Chukiat, Tawan, Thawatchai (Tananchai 68), Nirut, Kiatisuk, Dusit (Surachai Jirasirichote 80), Sakesan (Sutee 71).
**Saudi Arabia:** Babkr - Zubromawi, Al-Harbi (Al-Yami 83), Al-Jaber, S Al-Dosari, O Al-Dosari (Al-Ghamdi 73), A D Al-Dosari, Sulimani, Bin Shehan, A Al-Shahrani, Al-Khilaiwi (A K Al-Dosari 46).

## Sunday, September 16

*Sep 16 - Luanda - Cosafa CC Final, 1st leg*
**Angola 0**
**Zimbabwe 0**
**Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Mochubela
**Angola:** Marito - Caires, Renato, Asha, Didi, Filipe, Paulo Silva (Isaac 46), Gilberto, Stopirra (Zico 67), Flavio, Avelino Lopes.
**Zimbabwe:** Muzazdi - Matola, Ncube, Gilbert, Mpofu, Matora, Nyandoro, Kasinauyo (Masiku 70), Sibanda, M Dube (Komani 56), Jukelile (E Dube 83).

*Sep 16 - Pusan - friendly*
**South Korea 2** (Kim Do-hoon pen 58, Lee Dong-gook 90)
**Nigeria 1** (Ndukwe 62)
**HT:** 0-0

## Friday, September 21

*Sep 21 - Manama - WC qual*
**Bahrain 0**
**Saudi Arabia 4** (O Al-Dosari 26, Bin Shehan 28, A Al-Shahrani 39, Al-Jaber 88)
**HT:** 0-3. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Bujsaim (UAE)
**Bahrain:** Al-Ruwaie - A Al-Dosery, Abdulrahaman, K Al-Doseri, Salem, Salmeen, Rashed (Al-Kuwarie 69), Eid Rafia, Musaifer (Yusuf Mohamed 46), Taleb (Ali Ahmed 46), A Abdullah. *Sent off: Al-Ruwaie 77min.*
**Saudi Arabia:** Babkr - Zubromawi (Al-Khilaiwi 70), A K Al-Dosari, Al-Harbi (Hwsawi 62), Al-Jaber, S Al-Dosari, O Al-Dosari, A D Al-Dosari, Sulimani, Bin Shehan (Al-Yami 20), A Al-Shahrani.

*Sep 21 - Muscat - WC qual*
**Oman 0**
**Qatar 3** (Rasoul 25, Bujaloof 32, Al-Enazi 73)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)
**Oman:** Al-Mazroi - Al-Hasni (Ramadhan 77), Rabee, Al-Balushi, Samir (Rashid 56), Al-Harbi, Dorbeen, Jamaan, Al-Dhabit, N Z Al-Mukhaini, Nairooz (Al-Siyabi 52).
**Qatar:** A Al-Khaldi - J Al-Kuwari, Al-Obaidly (Al-Shammari 83), Al-Naemi, S Al-Kathiri, Mahmoud, Al-Qusi (Budawood 48), Mohd, Fazli (Al-Enazi 68), Rasoul, Bujaloof.

## Saturday, September 22

*Sep 22 - Bangkok - WC qual*
**Thailand 1** (Sutee 38)
**Iraq 1** (Ridha 62)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Sun (Chn)
**Thailand:** Kittisak - Niweat (Chukiat 65), Choketawee (Thanongsak 80), Anuruck, Therdsak (Sakesan 72), Tawan, Nirut, Kiatisuk, Surachai Jirasirichote, Dusit, Sutee.
**Iraq:** Jameel - Majid, Ridha, Ahmed Jassim, Taher, Tahir, Khudair, Sabbar, Abolheel (Abbas 83), Drain (Mossa 74), Kilam (Kati 53).

*Sep 22 - Tashkent - WC qual*
**Uzbekistan 0**
**United Arab Emirates 1** (Ahmed 5)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Okada (Jap)
**Uzbekistan:** Polyakov - Ashurmatov, Kassymov, Vlagrcher, Akopyants (Muminjanov 82), Agalarov, Hamidulaev (Shishelov 60), Bakaev, Faiziev, Khvostunov, Davletov.
**UAE:** Abdulla - Ibrahim Mohamed, F Ali, Abdul Rahman, Ahmed, Y S Ali (Bakhit 63; Khater 83), A Mohamed (Waleed 78), A R Jumaa, Masoud, Rashed, Qassim.

## Thursday, September 27

*Sep 27 - Abu Dhabi - WC qual*
**United Arab Emirates 0**
**China 1** (Qi Hong 43)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
**UAE:** Abdulla - Ibrahim Mohamed, F Ali, Abdul Rahman, Ahmed, Y S Ali (Mubarak 64), A Mohamed (Al-Kas 46), A R Jumaa, Masoud, Rashed, H A Ali (Khater 72).
**China:** An Qi - Yang Pu, Fan Zhiyi, Sun Jihai, Li Tie, Ma Mingyu (Li Ming 69), Hao Haidong, Li Weifeng, Li Xiaopeng, Qi Hong (Zhang Enhua 80), Yang Cheng (Yu Genwei 63).

## Friday, September 28

*Sep 28 - Baghdad - WC qual*
**Iraq 1** (Ridha 10)
**Bahrain 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Kim (SKo)
**Iraq:** Jameel - Majid, Ridha, Ahmed Jassim, Taher, Hadi, Sabbar, Abolheel (Haidar Hassan 90), Drain (Abdullah 74), Kati, T Mohammad (Khudair 81).
**Bahrain:** R Abdulla - Husain Mohamed, A Al-Dosery (A Mohamed 33), Al-Kuwarie (Taleb 70), Abdulrahaman, K Al-Doseri, Salmeen, Rashed, Juma (M Ali 58), Ali Ahmed, A Abdullah.

*Sep 28 - Doha - WC qual*
**Qatar 2** (Al-Enazi 9, Hashim 86)
**Uzbekistan 2** (Kassymov 45, Shirshov 46)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Rungklay (Tha)
**Qatar:** A Al-Khaldi - Al-Obaidly (Hashim 73), Al-Naemi, Al-Shammari (M Al-Blooshi 54), Al-Enazi, S Al-Khatiri, Mahmoud, Al-Qusi, Mohd, Fazli, Bujaloof (Rasoul 54).
**Uzbekistan:** Polyakov - Alikulov, Kassymov (Akopyants 75), Lushan, Vlagrcher, Bakaev (Marifaliev 30), Irismetov, Faiziev, Khvostunov, Davletov (Hamidulaev 46), Shirshov.

*Sep 28 - Riyadh - WC qual*
**Saudi Arabia 2** (A Al-Shahrani 20, Al-Yami 59)
**Iran 2** (Daei 42, Dinmohammadi 83)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)
**Saudi Arabia:** Babkr - Zubromawi, A K Al-Dosari, Al-Harbi (Hwsawi 66), Al-Jaber, S Al-Dosari (Al-Khilaiwi 82), O Al-Dosari (Al-Yami 55), A D Al-Dosari, Sulimani, Bin Shehan, A Al-Shahrani.
**Iran:** Mirzapour - Mahdavikia, Minavand (Dinmohammadi 80), Hasheminassab, Peyravani, Bagheri (Jamshidi 75), Karimi, Daei, Vahedinikbakht, Golmohammadi (Rahbarifard 90), Rezaei.

## Sunday, September 30

*Sep 30 - Harare - Cosafa CC Final, 2nd leg*
**Zimbabwe 0**
**Angola 1** (Flavio 87)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Lim (Mly)
*Angola 1-0 on agg*
**Zimbabwe:** Muzazdi - Matola, Ncube, Gilbert, Mpofu - Matora, Nyandoro, Edzai, Kasinauyo (Pasuwa 52) - Jukelile (Dube 65), Mwaruwaru. *Sent off: Mwaruwaru 66min.*
**Angola:** Marito - Caires, Didi, Renato, Filipe - Asha, Gilberto, Paulao (Flavio 83), Stopirra - Lopes, Akwa.

## Thursday, October 4

*Oct 4 - Doha - WC qual*
**Qatar 1** (Rasoul 47)
**United Arab Emirates 2** (Khater 43, Y S Ali 83)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Al-Dokhail (Sau)
**Qatar:** A Al-Khaldi - J Al-Kuwari, Al-Obaidly (Al-Tamimi 76), Al-Naemi, Al-Enazi, S Al-Kathiri, Mahmoud, Al-Qusi (Rasoul 46), Mohd, Fazli (Hashim 57), Budawood.
**UAE:** Abdulla - Ibrahim Mohamed, Abdul Rahman, Ahmed, A R Jumaa, Khater (Saeed 81), F Ali, Rashed, H A Ali (Y S Ali 58), Sebait (A Mohamed 46), Qassim.

*Oct 4 - Lens, France - friendly*
**Senegal 2** (Diouf 77, Thiaw 90)
**Japan 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 3,000

## Friday, October 5

*Oct 5 - Tehran - WC qual*
**Iran 1** (Vahedinikbakht 32)
**Thailand 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Fares (Syr)
**Iran:** Mirzapour - Mahdavikia, Minavand, Peyravani, Bagheri, Karimi, Daei, Vahedinikbakht, Nekoonam, Samereh (Dinmohammadi 85), Rezaei.
**Thailand:** Kittisak - Thanongsak (Sakesan 82), Niweat, Choketawee, Anuruck (Tananchai 25), Chukiat, Tawan, Nirut, Kiatisuk, Worrawoot (Sutee 62), Dusit.

*Oct 5 - Amman, Jordan - WC qual*
**Iraq 1** (Abolheel 31)
**Saudi Arabia 2** (Bin Shehan 1, 80)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Ruiz Acosta (Col)
**Iraq:** Jameel - Ridha, Ahmed Jassim (Khudair 6), Taher, Hadi, Sabbar, Abolheel, Haidar Hassan, Drain (Hassun 74), Kati, T Mohammad (Nashaat Ali 85).
**Saudi Arabia:** Al-Deayea - Zubromawi, A K Al-Dosari (Al-Khilaiwi 46), S Al-Dosari, A D Al-Dosari, Sulimani, Al-Otaibi (Al-Yami 56), Bin Shehan, A Al-Shahrani, Al-Shlhoob, Al-Ghamdi (Al-Harbi 76).

## Saturday, October 6

*Oct 6 - Yerevan - WC qual*
**Armenia 1** (H Hakopyan 71)
**Norway 4** (Borgersen 50, 80, Carew 70, 89)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Schluchter (Swi)
**Armenia:** Berezovski - Khodzhoyan (Artavazd Karamian 63), A Dokhoyan (Minasyan 74), Hovsepyan, Vardanyan - R Hachatryan, Petrosyan, K Dokhoyan, Sarkisyan - Voskanyan (H Hakopyan 59), Arman Karamian.
**Norway:** Myhre - Bergdolmo, R Johnsen (Borgersen 46), Basma, Riise - Sorensen (Riseth 83), E Bakke, R Strand, Rudi, F Johnsen (Flo 90) - Carew.

*Oct 6 - La Paz - WC qual*
**Bolivia 1** (Galindo 60)
**Ecuador 5** (De la Cruz 13, Delgado 23, Kaviedes 58, Fernandez 90, Gomes 90)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Angel Sanchez (Arg)
**Bolivia:** Arias - Raldes, Jiguchi, Carballo - Reyes, S Castillo (Vaca 33), Calustro, Justiniano - Galindo - Paz, Andaveris (A Castillo 46).
**Ecuador:** Cevallos - De la Cruz, I Hurtado, Espinosa, Guerron - Tenorio (Gomes 90), Obregon (Burbano 90), Mendez, Chala - Kaviedes (Fernandez 77), Delgado.

*Oct 6 - Zagreb - WC qual*
**Croatia 1** (Boksic 75)
**Belgium 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 36,077. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
**Croatia:** Pletikosa - D Simic, Tudor, R Kovac - Zivkovic, Tomas, Soldo (Rapajic 72), Jarni - Prosinecki (Vranjes 79) - Vlaovic (Balaban 63), Boksic.
**Belgium:** De Vlieger - Deflandre (B Peeters 83), Van Meir, De Boeck, Van Kerckhoven - Verheyen, Vanderhaeghe, Baseggio, Goor (Hendrikx 81) - Wilmots (Sonck 71), E Mpenza.

*Oct 6 - Prague - WC qual*
**Czech Republic 6** (Rosicky 5, 70, Nedved 16, 76, Baros 28, Lokvenc 66)
**Bulgaria 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 15,020. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
**Czech Republic:** Srnicek - Grygera, Novotny, Repka - Tyce (Hasek 26), Jankulovski, Poborsky (Baranek 78), Rosicky, Nedved - Lokvenc (Smicer 68), Baros.
**Bulgaria:** Zdravkov - Pazin, Markov, B Ivanov, Stilian Petrov - M Petkov (Peev 72), Balakov, Zhelev, Yanchev (Berbatov 20) - Georgi Ivanov (Manchev 65), M Petrov.

*Oct 6 - Copenhagen - WC qual*
**Denmark 6** (Rommedahl 12, E Sand 14, 67, Gravesen 30, 35, Michaelsen 90)
**Iceland 0**
**HT:** 4-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
**Denmark:** Sorensen - Helveg, Laursen, Henriksen, Heintze - Tofting, Gravesen, Tomasson (Mads Jorgensen 80) - Rommedahl (Michaelsen 55), Martin Jorgensen, E Sand (Madsen 68).
**Iceland:** Arason - Sigurdsson (Vidarsson 69), Marteinsson, E Sverrisson, Hreidarsson - J K Gudjonsson, Gretarsson, Gunnarsson, R Kristinsson, Baldvinsson (Sigthorsson 74) - E Gudjohnsen.

*Oct 6 - Manchester - WC qual*
**England 2** (Sheringham 68, Beckham 90)
**Greece 2** (Haristeas 36, Nikolaidis 70)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 66,000. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
**England:** Martyn - G Neville, Keown, Ferdinand, Ashley Cole (McManaman 78) - Beckham, Gerrard, Scholes, Barmby (Andy Cole 46) - Heskey, Fowler (Sheringham 67).
**Greece:** Nikopolidis - Patsatzoglou, Dabizas, K Konstantinidis, Vokolos, Fissas - Haristeas (Lakis 73), Zagorakis (Basinas 57), Karagounis, Kasapis - Nikolaidis (Machlas 86).

**Oct 6 - Saint-Denis - friendly*
**France 4** (Candela 20, Petit 32, Henry 41, Pires 55)
**Algeria 1** (Belmadi 45)
**HT:** 3-1. **Att:** 78,421. **Ref:** Perdiago Silva (Por)
**Match abandoned after 76mins following a pitch invasion*
**France:** Barthez - Thuram, Leboeuf (Silvestre 46), Desailly, Candela - Vieira, Petit (Makelele 58) - Pires, Zidane (Djorkaeff 46), Henry (Wiltord 58) - Trezeguet.
**Algeria:** Mezair - Raho, Bradja, Meniri, Haddou - Belmadi (Saifi 54), Belbey, Kraouche, Mansouri (Zeghdoud 57), Tasfaout (Djebaili 68) - Ghazi.

*Oct 6 - Gelsenkirchen - WC qual*
**Germany 0**
**Finland 0**
**Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
**Germany:** Kahn - Rehmer, Worns, Nowotny, Ziege - Ballack, Ramelow, Deisler, Bohme (Asamoah 46) - Bierhoff, Neuville (Klose 76).
**Finland:** A Niemi - Reini (Helin 78), Tihinen, Hyypia, Saarinen - Nurmela, Tainio (Gronlund 83), Riihilahti, Johansson (Kuqi 66) - Litmanen, Forssell.

*Oct 6 - Arnhem - WC qual*
**Holland 4** (Van Hooijdonk pen 4, Seedorf 45, Van Nistelrooy 54, 90)
**Andorra 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Erdemir (Tur)
**Holland:** Van der Sar - Landzaat, Melchiot (Numan 72), Hofland, Van Bronckhorst - Sikora (Van der Vaart 67), Seedorf, Davids, Zenden - Van Hooijdonk, Van Nistelrooy.
**Andorra:** Koldo - Escura, Txema, Alonso, T Lima - Fernandez, E Gonzalez (Gil 90), Sonejee, Jimenez - Ferron (Benet 90), Ruiz Gonzalez.

*Oct 6 - Parma - WC qual*
**Italy 1** (Del Piero 45)
**Hungary 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,805. **Ref:** Chavez (Par)
**Italy:** Buffon - Cannavaro, Materazzi, Maldini - Zambrotta (Di Livio 80), Tommasi, Albertini (Di Biagio 73), Coco - Totti - Del Piero (Gattuso 57), F Inzaghi.

**Hungary:** Kiraly - Bodnar, Kuttor, Juhar, Matyus - T Peto, V Sebok, Miriuta (Lisztes 55), Dardai - Tokoli (Egressy 77), Kabat (Ferenczi 66).

*Oct 6 - Valletta - WC qual*
**Malta 0**
**Northern Ireland 1** (Healy pen 57)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 3,223. **Ref:** Schuttengruber (Aut)
**Malta:** Muscat - Carabott, Debono, Said, Spiteri, Chetcuti - Agius, Theuma (Mallia 65), Zahra (Suda 80) - Nwoko, M Mifsud.
**N Ireland:** Taylor - Griffin, Murdock, McCartney, Kennedy - Johnson, Magilton, Horlock, Elliott (McCann 80) - M Hughes, Healy (Quinn 80).

*Oct 6 - Chisinau - WC qual*
**Moldova 0**
**Turkey 3** (Emre Asik 5, Nihat 75, Ilhan 83)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
**Moldova:** Romanenco - Andronic, Olexic, Ivanov, Cebotari - Catinsus, Epureanu, Sischin (Covalciuc 72), Miterev (Pogreban 76) - Gaidamasciuc, Berco.
**Turkey:** Rustu - Mehmet, Emre Asik, Umit Ezat, Hakan Unsal - Okan, Tugay, Nihat, Hasan Sas (Ergun 84) - Arif (Ilhan 75), Umit Karan (Basturk 68).

*Oct 6 - Chorzow - WC qual*
**Poland 1** (Olisadebe 40)
**Ukraine 1** (Shevchenko 81)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20.900. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
**Poland:** Dudek - Klos, Hajto, Waldoch, Michal Zewlakow - Swierczewski (J Bak 77), Karwan, A Bak, Kozminski (Krzynowek 65) - Marcin Zewlakow (Kryszalowicz 46), Olisadebe.
**Ukraine:** Reva - Luzhnyi, Holovko, Vaschuk (Fedorov 79), Nesmachnyi (Zadorozhnyi 84) - Zubov, Popov, Melaschenko (Shyshchenko 46), Tymoshchuk - Shevchenko, Vorobei.

*Oct 6 - Lisbon - WC qual*
**Portugal 5** (Joao Pinto 29, Nuno Gomes 49, 64, Pauleta 58, Figo 78)
**Estonia 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
**Portugal:** Ricardo - Frechaut (Nuno Gomes 39), Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Rui Jorge - Figo, Petit, Rui Costa, Capucho (Paulo Sousa 66) - Joao Pinto (Simao 46), Pauleta.
**Estonia:** Kaalma - Saviauk (Allas 55), Stepanov, Piiroja, U Rooba - Kristal, Reim, Novikov (Anniste 68), Haavistu (Alonen 68) - Oper, Zelinski.

*Oct 6 - Dublin - WC qual*
**Rep Ireland 4** (Harte 3, Quinn 11, Connolly 63, Roy Keane 67)
**Cyprus 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Ansuategui Roca (Spa)
**Rep Ireland:** Given - Finnan, Breen, Staunton, Harte - Kennedy (Carsley 64), Roy Keane, Holland, Kilbane (McPhail 85) - Quinn (Morrison 68), Connolly.
**Cyprus:** N Panayiotou - Daskalakis, Melanarkitis, Konnafis (Louka 68) - Theodotou, Satsias, Christodolou, N Nicolaou, Kotsonis - Okkas (Themistocleous 85), Yiasoumi (Kontolefterou 88).

*Oct 6 - Bucharest - WC qual*
**Romania 1** (Gheorghe Popescu 88)
**Georgia 1** (Iashvili 54)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 16,500. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
**Romania:** Lobont - Kirita, Lacusta, Miu, Pirvu (Mihalcea 61), Gheorghe Popescu, Dumitru, D Munteanu, Niculae, Mutu (Rosu 46), Ilie (Pancu 70).
**Georgia:** Gvaramadze - Kobiashvili, Khizanishvili, Rekhviashvili, Sajaia, Tskitishvili, Kaladze, Dzhamaraili, Iashvili (Aleksidze 80), Kinkladze (Ketsbaia 63), Kavelashvili (Burduli 75).

*Oct 6 - Moscow - WC qual*
**Russia 4** (Beschastnykh pen 14, 18, 38, Titov 83)
**Switzerland 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
**Russia:** Nigmatullin - Smertin (Khokhlov 88), Drozdov (Dayev 25), Chugainov, Alenichev, Kovtun, Onopko, Gusev (Semak 74), Titov, Izmailov, Beschastnykh.
**Switzerland:** Stiel - Zellweger, Quentin, M Yakin (Zwyssig 46), P Muller, Mazzarelli, Sesa, Comisetti (Lonfat 79), H Yakin, Sforza, Di Jorio (Lombardo 46).

*Oct 6 - Glasgow - WC qual*
**Scotland 2** (Freedman 43, Weir 53)
**Latvia 1** (Rubins 21)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
**Scotland:** Sullivan - Weir, Elliott (Rae 71), Dailly, Nicholson (Booth 62) - Cameron, Burley, Davidson, Hutchison (Severin 77) - Freedman, McCann.
**Latvia:** Kolinko - Laizans, Stepanovs, Zakresevskis, Blagonadezdins - Bleidelis (Kolesnichenko 75), Astafjevs, Isakovs, Rubins (Dobrecovs 82) - Pahars, Verpakovskis.

*Oct 6 - Ljubljana - WC qual*
**Slovenia 3** (N Ceh 13, 31, Tiganj 82)
**Faroe Islands 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Kasnaferis (Gre)
**Slovenia:** Simeunovic - Milinovic, Galic, Knavs, Novak, Osterc (Tiganj 67), N Ceh (Bulajic 90), Rakovic (Tavcar 53), Rudonja, Gajser, Pavlovic.
**Faroe Islands:** Mikkelsen - Johannesen, J K Hansen, J B Hansen (Danielsen 80), H F Hansen, O Hansen (Olsen 73), R Jacobsen, K Morkore, a Borg, J Petersen, C Jacobsen (J R Jacobsen 74).

*Oct 6 - San Cristobal - WC qual*
**Venezuela 3** (Alvarado 49, 67, Moran 78)
**Peru 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Sanchez (Chl)
**Venezuela:** Angelucci - Valenilla, R Mea Vitali, Alvarado, Rojas - Vera (Gimenez 10), M Mea Vitali, Arango, Paez (Urdaneta 67) - Noriega (Martinez 60), Moran. *Sent off: Arango 55min.*
**Peru:** Miranda - Huaman (Ramirez 57), Pajuelo, Rebosio, Hidalgo - Soto, Ciurlizza, Jayo, Palacios - Maestri (Garcia 70), Mendoza (Arakaki 46). *Sent off: Rebosio 45min, Arakaki 70min.*

*Oct 6 - Cardiff - WC qual*
**Wales 1** (Hartson 48)
**Belarus 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Rodomonti (Ita)
**Wales:** P Jones - Delaney, Melville, Symons (Page 17), Speed - J Robinson, Pembridge, Davies, M Jones (C Robinson 65) - Hartson (I Roberts 90), Bellamy.
**Belarus:** Tumilovich - Lukhvich, Yakhimovich, Shtanyuk, Yaskovich - Gurenko, Shuneiko, Baranov (Gleb 67), Kulchiy - Vasilyuk (Ryndyuk 44), Kachuro.

*Oct 6 - Belgrade - WC qual*
**Yugoslavia 6** (Jokanovic 19, Mijatovic 58, Kezman 61, 71, Milosevic 62, 68)
**Luxembourg 2** (Peters 38, Christophe 52)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 1,758. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
**Yugoslavia:** S Stevanovic - Mirkovic, Djorovic (Sasa Ilic 56), Jokanovic, Krstajic, P Djordjevic, Mijatovic, Milosevic, Kezman (I Tomic 73), D Stankovic, Lazetic (Drulovic 44).
**Luxembourg:** Gillet - Ferron, Schauls, F Deville, Strasser, Saibene, Peters (Reiter 85), Posing, Christophe, Cardoni (L Deville 15), Schneider (Theis 75).

## Sunday, October 7

*Oct 7 - Zenica - WC qual*
**Bosnia-Herzegovina 5** (Konjic 34, Baljic pen 45, pen 82, Sabic 69, Dodik 86)
**Liechtenstein 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** McDermott (Ire)
**Bosnia:** Piplica - Beslija (Hota 72), Music, Konjic, Hibic, Akrapovic (Biscevic 71), Sabic, Salihamidzic (Ikanovic 58), Dodik, Muharemovic, Baljic.
**Liechtenstein:** Jehle - Ospelt, Martin Stocklasa, Hefti, Michael Stocklasa, Gerster, Telser, R Buchel (D'Elia 76), T Beck (Nigg 46), Burgmeier (M Beck 71), Gigon. *Sent off: Gerster 45min.*

*Oct 7 - Curitiba - WC qual*
**Brazil 2** (Edilson 53, Rivaldo 67)
**Chile 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)
**Brazil:** Marcos - Lucio, Juan, Edmilson - Cafu, Emerson Ferreira, Vampeta, Rivaldo (Juninho Paulista 89), Roberto Carlos (Belleti 84) - Marcelinho Paraiba (Denilson 46), Edilson.
**Chile:** Toro - J Vargas, Robles, Munoz - Cancino, Villaseca, Ormazabal, Perez (Melendez 61), Pizarro - Salas, Valenzuela (Navia 55).

*Oct 7 - Shenyang - WC qual*
**China 1** (Yu Genwei 36)
**Oman 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Maidin (Sin)
**China:** An Qi - Wu Chengying, Fan Zhiyi, Li Weifeng, Sun Jihai, Li Xiaopeng, Ma Mingyu (Yang Pu 82), Li Tie, Yu Genwei (Shen Si 89), Hao Haidong, Yang Chen (Zhang Yuning 72).
**Oman:** Al-Mazroi - Al-Hasni, Rabee, Al-Balushi, Fatah (M Al-Mukhaini 80), Al-Harbi, Dorbeen, Al-Siyabi (Mohammed 87), M Al-Noobi, H Al-Noobi (Y J Al-Mukhaini 69), N Z Al-Mukhaini.

*Oct 7 - San Jose - WC qual*
**Costa Rica 0**
**Mexico 0**
**Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Pereira da Silva (Bra)
**Costa Rica:** Lonnis - Parks, Marin, Martinez - Wallace, C Castro, Centeno (Lopez 71), M Solis - Fonseca (Sunsing 66) - Medford (Bryce 58), Gomez.
**Mexico:** O Perez - Vidrio, R Perez, R Morales (Alves 57), H Morales - Arellano, Torrado, Garcia Aspe, Blanco - Palencia, Rodriguez.

*Oct 7 - San Pedro Sula - WC qual*
**Honduras 0**
**Trinidad & Tobago 1** (S John 61)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Seifert (Can)
**Honduras:** Valladares - Reyes, Medina, S Caballero, Clavasquin (S Martinez 62) - Guerrero, Guevara (Garcia 81), Turcios (De Leon 25), Jose Pineda - C Pavon, D Suazo.
**Trinidad & Tobago:** Hislop - Saunders, M Andrews, A John, Thomas - Dwarika, Rahim, Glasgow (Whitley 30), Elcock - S John, Mason.

*Oct 7 - Southampton, England - friendly*
**Japan 2** (Yanagisawa 26, Suzuki 57)
**Nigeria 2** (Matsuda og 27, Aghahowa 81)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 11,801. **Ref:** Dunn (Eng)
**Japan:** Kawaguchi - Matsuda, Miyamoto, Nakata - Hato (Hiroyama 46), Ito (Fukunishi 77), Toda, Inamoto (Oku 69), Ono (Hattori 46) - Nishizawa (Suzuki 46), Yanagisawa.
**Nigeria:** Shoronmu - Udeze (Babayaro 54), Ejiofor, Okoronkwu, Ojigwe - George, Oliseh, Okocha, Babangida (Aghahowa 54) - Agali (Lawal 73), Aiyegbeni.

*Oct 7 - Skopje - WC qual*
**Macedonia 0**
**Slovakia 5** (Reyter 27, Dzurik 57, P Nemeth 72, Pinte 81, Oravec 90)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
**Macedonia:** Gruevski - Stavrevski, Stojanov (Kapinkovski 66), Sedloski, Mitrevski, G Jovanovski (Beqiri 64), Lazarevski, Trajanov, Maznov, Sakiri (Ignatov 64), Nacevski.
**Slovakia:** Bucek - Karhan, Kozak, Hornyak, Varga, P Nemeth, Dzurik (Soltis 84), Reyter (Janocko 75), Gresko, S Nemeth (Oravec 66), Pinte.

*Oct 7 - Asuncion - WC qual*
**Paraguay 2** (Chilavert pen 52, Morinigo 70)
**Argentina 2** (Pochettino 66, Batistuta 73)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Hidalgo
**Paraguay:** Chilavert - Arce, Ayala (J D Caceres 80), Caniza, Gamarra, Alvarenga, Morinigo, Quintana (Morel Rodriguez 71), Struway, Cardozo (Caballero 79), Santa Cruz.
**Argentina:** Cavallero - Ayala, Pochettino, Samuel, Almeyda, Sorin (Claudio Lopez 63), Veron, Zanetti, Batistuta (Cruz 90), Kily Gonzalez, Ortega (Almar 80).

*Oct 7 - Stockholm - WC qual*
**Sweden 3** (A Svensson 53, Larsson pen 61, Ibrahimovic 69)
**Azerbaijan 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 32,786. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
**Sweden:** Hedman - Saarenpaa, P Andersson (Michael Svensson 36), Mjallby, C Andersson, Linderoth, Alexandersson, D Andersson (A Svensson 46), Ljungberg, Allback (Ibrahimovic 66), Larsson.
**Azerbaijan:** Gasanzade - Yadullayev, Sadykhov, A Mamedov, Asadov, Emin Guliev (Getman 77), Akhmedov, Tagizade, M Kurbanov, K Kurbanov (Vasilyev 83), Huseynov (S Aliyev 75).

*Oct 7 - Montevideo - WC qual*
**Uruguay 1** (Magallanes pen 35)
**Colombia 1** (Valentierra 68)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
**Uruguay:** Munua - Lembo, Montero, Dario Rodriguez - Tais, De los Santos, Garcia, Guigou (Canobbio 83), Recoba - Silva (R Morales 75), Magallanes (Chevanton 46).
**Colombia:** O Cordoba - Lopez, I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya (Cortes 46) - Grisales, Restrepo, Bolano, Valentierra - Aristizabal (Murillo 71), F Asprilla.

*Oct 7 - Foxboro - WC qual*
**United States 2** (Moore 4, pen 81)
**Jamaica 1** (J Lawrence 14)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 40,483. **Ref:** Sibrian (ES)
**USA:** Friedel - Sanneh, Pope, Agoos, Regis - Armas, O'Brien, Stewart, Reyna - Donovan, Moore (Jones 86).
**Jamaica:** A Lawrence - Dixon, F Davis, McDonald (Marshall 63), Scarlett - Simpson, J Lawrence (Johnson 76), Whitmore, Gardner - Fuller, Lowe (Hall 75).

# EUROPE

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### 1st group phase

#### Group A

**September 19**

**Anderlecht 0**
**Roma 0**
**Att:** 21,436. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
**Anderlecht:** De Wilde - Crasson, Van Hout, De Boeck, Hendrikx - Hasi, Stoica (Thompson 78), Vanderhaeghe, Baseggio (El Said 85) - Dindane, Mornar (De Bilde 66).
**Roma:** Antonioli - Zebina, Samuel, Zago - Cafu, Tommasi, Emerson, Lima, Candela - Totti, Batistuta (Montella 82).

**Real Madrid 4** (Munitis 38, Figo pen 64, Roberto Carlos 80, Savio 86)
**Lokomotiv Moscow 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
**Real Madrid:** Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Karanka, Roberto Carlos (Solari 83) - Figo (McManaman 88), Makelele, Flavio Conceicao (Celades 76), Munitis - Raul, Savio.
**Lokomotiv:** Nigmatullin - Cherevchenko, Chugainov, Drozdov - Obradovic, Loskov, Maminov, Izmailov, Lekheto - Pimenov (Vucicevic 74), Obiorah (Buznikin 59).

**September 26**

**Real Madrid 4** (Celades 49, Raul 50, 68, Solari 79)
**Anderlecht 1** (Dindane 33)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
**Real Madrid:** Casillas - Michel Salgado (Geremi 69), Hierro, Karanka, Roberto Carlos - Figo, Celades, Makelele (Baljic 81), Solari - Munitis (Morientes 72), Raul.
**Anderlecht:** De Wilde - Crasson, Van Hout, De Boeck, Ilic - Hasi (De Bilde 59), Vanderhaeghe, Baseggio (El Said 65), Hendrikx - Stoica (Thompson 72), Dindane.

**Roma 2** (Chugainov og 69, Totti 79)
**Lokomotiv Moscow 1** (Obradovic 59)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 38,472. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
**Roma:** Antonioli - Zebina, Samuel, Zago - Cafu (Guigou 62), Tommasi (Assuncao 62), Lima, Candela - Totti - Montella (Batistuta 46), Delvecchio.
**Lokomotiv:** Nigmatullin - Obradovic, Chugainov, Ignashevich, Cherevchenko - Maminov, Drozdov, Loskov, Lekheto - Izmailov, Pimenov (Buznikin 74).

**GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Madrid | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 9 |
| Roma | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Anderlecht | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Lokomotiv M | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 1 |

#### Group B

**September 19**

**Boavista 3** (Sanchez 4, Silva 11, Duda 30)
**Kyiv Dynamo 1** (Ghioane 5)
**HT:** 3-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
**Boavista:** Ricardo - Frechaut, Paulo Turra, Pedro Emanuel, Erivan - Petit, Glauber, Sanchez - Goulart (Pedro Santos 75), Silva (Marcio 87), Duda (Bosingwa 80).
**Dynamo:** Filimonov - Gavrancich, Holovko, Vaschuk, Nesmachnyi - Ghioane, Bialkevich, Fedorov, Khatskevich (Idakhor 56) - Cernat, Melaschenko.

**Borussia Dortmund 0**
**Liverpool 0**
**Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
**Dortmund:** Lehmann - Worns, Reuter, Kohler - Evanilson, Stevic, Dede - Sorensen (Ricken 87), Rosicky, Amoroso (Bobic 87) - Koller.
**Liverpool:** Dudek - Carragher, Henchoz, Hyypia, Vignal - Murphy, Gerrard, Hamann, Riise (McAllister 75) - Owen, Heskey.

**September 26**

**Boavista 2** (Silva 24, Sanchez 39)
**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Amoroso 75)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
**Boavista:** Ricardo - Frechaut, Paulo Turra, Pedro Emanuel, Erivan - Petit, Glauber (Gouveia 75), Sanchez - Duda, Goulart (Bosingwa 80), Silva (Serginho 75).
**Dortmund:** Lehmann - Worns, Kohler (Ricken 62), Dede - Evanilson, Reuter, Stevic (Herrlich 83) - Sorensen (Bobic 46), Rosicky, Amoroso - Koller. *Sent off: Amoroso 90min.*

**Liverpool 1** (Litmanen 24)
**Kyiv Dynamo 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 33,513. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
**Liverpool:** Dudek - Carragher, Henchoz, Hyypia, Vignal - Barmby (Murphy 61), Gerrard, Hamann, Riise (McAllister 79) - Litmanen (Fowler 64), Heskey.
**Dynamo:** Filimonov - Fedorov, Vaschuk, Holovko, Nesmachnyi - Ghioane, Gavrancich, Cernat (Peev 69) - Bialkevich (Serebrennikov 81) - Melaschenko, Idakhor.

**GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boavista | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| Liverpool | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| B Dortmund | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Kyiv Dynamo | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |

## Group C

**September 19**

**Arsenal 3** (Ljungberg 33, Henry 35, pen 47)
**Schalke 2** (Van Hoogdalem 43, Mpenza 59)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 35,361. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
**Arsenal:** Seaman - Lauren, Keown, Grimandi, Van Bronckhorst - Ljungberg, Parlour, Vieira, Pires (Inamoto 76) - Wiltord (Bergkamp 72), Henry (Upson 90).
**Schalke:** Reck - Hajto, Waldoch, Van Kerckhoven - Vermant (Asamoah 54), Oude Kamphuis, Moller (Djordjevic 73),Van Hoogdalem, Bohme (Mulder 83) - Mpenza, Agali.

**Panathinaikos 2** (Vlaovic 25, Constantinou 28)
**Mallorca 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
**Panathinaikos:** Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Henriksen, Kyrgiakos, Fissas - Michaelsen, Paulo Sousa, Karagounis (Kolkka 81), Basinas - Vlaovic (Vokolos 84), Constantinou.
**Mallorca:** Leo Franco - Fatih, Nino, Nadal, Miquel Soler - Campano (Novo 70), Marcos (Riera 86), Engonga, Paunovic - Luque (Carlos 60), Eto'o.

**September 26**

**Panathinaikos 1** (Karagounis 24)
**Arsenal 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 15,012. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
**Panathinaikos:** Nikopolidis - Vokolos, Henriksen, Kyrgiakos, Fissas - Michaelsen, Paulo Sousa, Karagounis (Saric 85), Basinas - Olisadebe (Kolkka 69), Vlaovic (Constantinou 64).
**Arsenal:** Seaman - Lauren, Keown, Upson, Cole - Ljungberg (Kanu 68), Parlour (Van Bronckhorst 53), Vieira, Pires - Wiltord (Jeffers 68), Henry.

**Schalke 0**
**Mallorca 1** (Eto'o 65)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 51,860. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
**Schalke:** Reck - Van Hoogdalem, Hajto, Waldoch (Asamoah 70), Van Kerckhoven - Oude Kamphuis, Nemec (Mulder 82), Moller, Bohme (Buskens 65) - Mpenza, Agali.
**Mallorca:** Roa - Olaizola, Vicente (Fatih 46), Nadal, Miquel Soler - Novo, Engonga, Marcos, Díaz (Paco Soler 86) - Eto'o, Luque (Paunovic 72).

**GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panathinaikos | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 9 |
| Mallorca | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Arsenal | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Schalke | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 |

## Group D

**September 19**

**Lazio 1** (Fernando Couto 6)
**Nantes 3** (Fabbri 3, Armand 63, Ziani 86)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 18,248. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
**Lazio:** Peruzzi - Stam (Pancaro 72), Nesta, Fernando Couto - Stankovic, Mendieta (Claudio Lopez 65), Simeone, Fiore, Favalli - Crespo (Kovacevic 77), Inzaghi.
**Nantes:** Landreau - Delhommeau, Fabbri, Gillet - Deroff, Berson, Djemba, Armand - Ziani - Ahamada (Quint 63), Andre (Dalmat 70).

**PSV Eindhoven 3** (Bruggink 38, Faber 53, Kezman 90)
**Galatasaray 1** (Umit Karan 68)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
**PSV:** Waterreus - Colin, Addo, Faber, Bouma - Rommedahl (Lucius 79), Van Bommel, Vogel, Ramzi (De Jong 85) - Bruggink (Vennegoor of Hesselink 75), Kezman.
**Galatasaray:** Mondragon - Emre Asik, Bulent Korkmaz, Capone, Hakan Unsal (Victoria 61) - Suat (Bulent Akin 59), Sergen, Ergun, Berkant (Arif 68), Hasan Sas- Umit Karan.

**September 26**

**Nantes 0**
**Galatasaray 1** (Sergen 79)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 28,546. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
**Nantes:** Landreau - Deroff, Delhommeau, Fabbri, Armand - Berson, Olembe (Aristouy 89) - Dalmat, Devineau (Djemba 71), Quint - Ahamada (Pujol 88).
**Galatasaray:** Mondragon – Perez, Capone, Emre Asik, Hakan Unsal - Bulent Akin, Suat (Fleurquin 66), Ergun, Hasan Sas - Arif (Sergen 58), Serkan (Umit Karan 78).

**PSV Eindhoven 1** (Hofland 39)
**Lazio 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** McCurry (Sco)
**PSV:** Kralj - Faber, Nikiforov, Hofland, Bouma - Rommedahl (Gakhokidze 72), Van Bommel (Lucius 62), Vogel, Ramzi - Bruggink (Vennegoor of Hesselink 88), Kezman.
**Lazio:** Peruzzi - Colonnese, Fernando Couto, Baggio, Pancaro - Mendieta (Poborsky 72), Simeone (Stankovic 38), Giannichedda, Fiore - Kovacevic (Inzaghi 73), Claudio Lopez.

**GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nantes | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| Galatasaray | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| PSV | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Lazio | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

## Group E

**September 18**

**Juventus 3** (Trezeguet 43, 55, Amoruso pen 90)
**Celtic 2** (Petrov 66, Larsson pen 85)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
**Juventus:** Buffon - Thuram, Montero, Iuliano - Zenoni, Tacchinardi, Davids, Pessotto (Birindelli 64) - Salas (O'Neill 69), Trezeguet, Del Piero (Amoruso 88). *Sent off: Davids 75min.*
**Celtic:** Douglas - Balde, Mjallby, Valgaeren - Agathe, Lambert, Lennon, Petrov, Thompson (Petta 59) - Larsson, Sutton.

**Rosenborg 1** (Rushfeldt 90)
**FC Porto 2** (Pena 10, Deco 60)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 20,007. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
**Rosenborg:** Arason - B I Johnsen (El Fakiri 77), Basma, Hoftun, Saarinen - O Berg, Skammelsrud, Strand - F Johnsen, Rushfeldt, Brattbakk (Enerly 86).
**Porto:** Ovchinnikov - Ibarra, Jorge Costa, Jorge Andrade, Mario Silva - Rubens Junior (Paredes 37), Ricardo Carvalho, Deco, Costinha - Capucho (Alenichev 90), Pena (Helder Postiga 84).

**September 25**

**Celtic 1** (Larsson 36)
**FC Porto 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 54,664. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
**Celtic:** Douglas - Mjallby, Balde, Valgaeren - Agathe, Lambert, Petrov (McNamara 89), Lennon, Petta (Thompson 68) - Larsson, Sutton.
**Porto:** Ovchinnikov - Ibarra (Helder Postiga 76), Jorge Costa, Jorge Andrade, Mario Silva (Alenichev 46) - Costinha (Rubens Junior 46), Ricardo Carvalho, Deco, Paredes - Capucho, Pena.

**Rosenborg 1** (Skammelsrud pen 89)
**Juventus 1** (Del Piero 85)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 20,748. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
**Rosenborg:** Arason - Strand (Olsen 46), Hoftun, Basma, Saarinen (Stensaas 71) - F Johnsen, Skammelsrud, O Berg - Enerly (B I Johnsen 78), Rushfeldt, Brattbakk.
**Juventus:** Buffon - Thuram, Iuliano, Montero, Pessotto - Zenoni (Maresca 77), Tacchinardi, O'Neill (Salas 59), Zambrotta - Trezeguet, Del Piero.

**October 10**

**Celtic 1** (Thompson 21)
**Rosenborg 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 54,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
**Celtic:** Douglas - Balde, Mjallby, Valgaeren - Agathe, Lennon, Lambert, Petrov, Thompson (Guppy 66) - Sutton, Larsson.
**Rosenborg:** Arason - B I Johnsen, Basma, Hoftun, Saarinen - Strand (Winsnes 82), Skammelsrud, O Berg - Olsen (F Johnsen 86), Rushfeldt, Brattbakk (George 74).

**FC Porto 0**
**Juventus 0**
**Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
**Porto:** Ovchinnikov - Ibarra, Jorge Andrade, Ricardo Carvalho, Mario Silva - Paredes (Soderstrom 71), Clayton - Capucho (Alenichev 77), Deco, Costinha - Pena (Helder Postiga 66).
**Juventus:** Buffon - Birindelli (Paramatti 12), Thuram, Montero, Pessotto (Zenoni 65) - Zambrotta, Tacchinardi, Tudor, Davids - Salas (O'Neill 84), Del Piero.

**GROUP E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Juventus | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| FC Porto | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Rosenborg | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

## Group F

**September 18**

**Fenerbahce 0**
**Barcelona 3** (Kluivert 25, Andersson 28, Saviola 66)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
**Fenerbahce:** Rustu - Dogan, Umit, Mirkovic - Lazetic, Ogun (Mert 73), Johnson, Abdullah - Revivo - Rapajic (Ceyhun 69), Serhat (Oktay 46).
**Barcelona:** Bonano - Puyol (Gabri 69), Andersson, Christanval, Sergi - Xavi, Rochemback, Cocu - Luis Enrique (De Boer 59), Kluivert, Geovanni (Saviola 55).

**Lyon 0**
**Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Kirsten 75)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 37,006. **Ref:** Cesari (Ita)
**Lyon:** Coupet - Deflandre, Edmilson, Muller, Brechet - Carriere (Juninho 67), Violeau, Foe, Laigle (Delmotte 79) - Nee (Luyindula 61), Govou. *Sent off: Juninho 85min.*
**Leverkusen:** Butt - Sebescen, Lucio, Nowotny, Placente - Schneider, Ramelow, Ballack - Basturk (Zivkovic 80) - Kirsten (Ojigwe 87), Neuville (Brdaric 85).

**September 25**

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Basturk 52, Neuville 69)
**Barcelona 1** (Luis Enrique 22)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
**Leverkusen:** Butt - Sebescen (Basturk 46), Lucio, Nowotny, Placente - Schneider, Ballack, Ramelow, Ze Roberto (Zivkovic 83) - Neuville, Kirsten (Ojigwe 75).
**Barcelona:** Bonano - Puyol (Gabri 72), Christanval, Andersson, Sergi - Xavi, Rochemback (Gerard 78), Cocu - Luis Enrique, Kluivert, Geovanni (Saviola 55).

**Fenerbahce 0**
**Lyon 1** (Delmotte 89)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
**Fenerbahce:** Rustu - Mert, Dogan, Mirkovic - Lazetic (Ceyhun 82), Ogun, Johnson, Abdullah - Revivo - Rapajic (Andersson 46), Ali Gunes (Serhat 73).
**Lyon:** Coupet - Deflandre, Muller, Edmilson (Cacapa 64), Brechet - Carriere (Laigle 84), Foe, Violeau, Delmotte - Govou, Luyindula (Linares 89).

**October 10**

**Barcelona 2** (Kluivert 79, Rivaldo pen 87)
**Lyon 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
**Barcelona:** Bonano - Gabri, Puyol, De Boer, Coco - Luis Enrique (Motta 90), Xavi, Cocu - Geovanni (Saviola 46), Kluivert, Rivaldo (Reiziger 87).
**Lyon:** Coupet - Deflandre, Edmilson, Cacapa, Brechet - Linares, Muller, Foe, Laigle (Delmotte 83) - Govou, Anderson (Luyindula 48; Nee 84).

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Lucio 36, Ballack 59)
**Fenerbahce 1** (Revivo 6)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
**Leverkusen:** Butt - Schneider, Lucio, Nowotny, Placente - Ramelow, Ballack, Basturk, Ze Roberto (Vranjes 90) - Neuville (Berbatov 68), Kirsten (Sebescen 86).
**Fenerbahce:** Rustu - Mert, Umit, Mirkovic - Lazetic (Ali Gunes 79), Ogun (Serhat 79), Johnson, Abdullah, Ali Akdeniz - Revivo (Hakan 64), Rapajic. *Sent off: Johnson 37min.*

**GROUP F**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B Leverkusen | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| Barcelona | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| Lyon | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Fenerbahce | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

## Group G

**September 18**

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Fran 22, Valeron 90)
**Olympiakos 2** (Giannakopoulos 80, Ofori-Quaye 83)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
**Deportivo:** Molina - Manuel Pablo, Donato, Naybet, Romero - Victor (Scaloni 37), Mauro Silva, Sergio (Valeron 84), Fran - Pandiani, Diego Tristan (Makaay 69).
**Olympiakos:** Eleftheropoulos - Mavrogenidis (Patsatzoglou 76), Bermudez, Anatolakis, Venetidis - Giannakopoulos, Ze Elias, Karembeu, Djordjevic - Zetterberg (Ofori-Quaye 61), Giovanni (Amanatidis 84).

**Manchester United 1** (Beckham 90)
**Lille 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 64,827. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
**Man Utd:** Barthez - G Neville (Silvestre 12), Blanc, Brown, Irwin - Keane - Beckham, Scholes, Veron, Giggs (Solskjaer 74) - Van Nistelrooy.
**Lille:** Wimbee - Pichot, Fahmi, Cygan, Ecker - Sterjovski (Olufade 90), N'Diaye, D'Amico, Tafforeau (Schmitz 86) - Bruno Cheyrou (Boutoille 74) - Bakari.

**September 25**

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Pandiani 86, Naybet 89)
**Manchester United 1** (Scholes 40)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 34,000. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
**Deportivo:** Molina - Manuel Pablo, Donato, Naybet, Romero - Emerson (Valeron 46), Mauro Silva - Makaay (Pandiani 60), Sergio (Scaloni 60), Fran - Diego Tristan.
**Man Utd:** Barthez - G Neville, Blanc, Johnsen, Irwin - Keane - Beckham (Cole 90), Scholes, Veron, Giggs - Van Nistelrooy (Solskjaer 90).

**Lille 3** (Bakari 33, Bruno Cheyrou 44, Tafforeau 79)
**Olympiakos 1** (Giannakopoulos 90)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 41,000. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)
**Lille:** Wimbee - Pichot, Fahmi, Cygan, Ecker - Sterjovski, N'Diaye, D'Amico, Bruno Cheyrou (Tafforeau 76) - Boutoille (Delpierre 66), Bakari (Olufade 88).
**Olympiakos:** Eleftheropoulos - Mavrogenidis (Niniadis 64), Bermudez, Anatolakis, Venetidis - Giannakopoulos, Karembeu, Patsatzoglou - Roberts (Alexandris 77), Giovanni, Ofori-Quaye.

**October 10**

**Lille 1** (Olufade 87)
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Valeron 49)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 37,033. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
**Lille:** Wimbee - Pichot, Fahmi, Cygan, Ecker - Landrin (Bassir 61), N'Diaye, D'Amico, Bruno Cheyrou (Murati 78) - Sterjovski (Olufade 74) - Bakari.
**Deportivo:** Molina - Hector, Naybet, Donato, Romero - Victor (Scaloni 71), Duscher, Valeron (Sergio 79), Emerson, Fran (Amavisca 64) - Pandiani.

**Olympiakos 0**
**Manchester United 2** (Beckham 66, Cole 82)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 73,537. **Ref:** Cesari (Ita)
**Olympiakos:** Eleftheropoulos - Patsatzoglou, Bermudez, Anatolakis, Venetidis - Karembeu, Kostoulas (Ofori-Quaye 70) - Giannakopoulos, Zetterberg (Niniadis 66), Djordjevic (Alexandris 80) - Giovanni.
**Man Utd:** Barthez - G Neville, Blanc, Johnsen, Irwin (Silvestre 89) - Veron (Cole 80), Keane - Beckham, Scholes, Giggs - Van Nistelrooy (Solskjaer 85).

**GROUP G**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Man Utd | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Dep La Coruna | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Lille | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Olympiakos | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 |

**Group H**

**September 18**

**Bayern Munich 0**
**Sparta Prague 0**
**Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
**Bayern:** Kahn - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Lizarazu - N Kovac (Hargreaves 46), Fink, Sforza (Paulo Sergio 46), Salihamidzic - Elber (Pizarro 72), Jancker.
**Sparta:** Cech - Grygera, Hubschmann, Novotny, Labant - Sionko, Jarosik, Hasek, Michalik (Flachbart 90) - Hartig (Babnic 58; Zelenka 90), Kincl.

**Moscow Spartak 2** (Robson 62, Beschastnykh 69)
**Feyenoord 2** (Bosvelt 12, Tomasson 59)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
**Spartak:** Kabanov - Tchuisse (Ananko 32), Kovtun, Mitrevski, Parfyonov - Baranov, Titov, Bulatov, Tsykhmeistruk - Beschastnykh, Robson.
**Feyenoord:** Zoetebier - Emerton, Van Gobbel, De Haan, Rzasa - Bosvelt, Tomasson, Van Gastel (De Visser 66), Paauwe - Van Hooijdonk, Kalou (Collen 70).

**September 25**

**Moscow Spartak 1** (Baranov 64)
**Bayern Munich 3** (Salihamidzic 16, Elber 41, 74)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
**Spartak:** Kabanov - Parfyonov (Tchuisse 46), Ananko, Mitrevski, Kovtun - Baranov, Bulatov, Bezrodny (Tsykhmeistruk 46) - Titov - Beschastnykh, Robson.
**Bayern:** Kahn - Sagnol, R Kovac, Kuffour, Lizarazu - N Kovac, Thiam, Fink (Hargreaves 87), Salihamidzic (Paulo Sergio 82) - Elber, Santa Cruz (Pizarro 79).

**Sparta Prague 4** (Hartig 24, Labant pen 38, Kincl 71, Michalik 74)
**Feyenoord 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 15,150. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
**Sparta:** Cech - Grygera, Novotny, Hubschmann, Labant - Sionko (Papousek 87), Jarosik, Hasek, Michalik (Zelenka 80) - Kincl, Hartig (Holub 84).
**Feyenoord:** Zoetebier - Emerton, Van Gobbel, De Haan, Rzasa - Kalou, Bosvelt, Van Gastel (Leonardo 80), Paauwe - Van Hooijdonk, Tomasson. *Sent off: Van Gobbel 37min.*

**October 10**

**Feyenoord 2** (Van Hooijdonk 38, Tomasson 45)
**Bayern Munich 2** (Elber 13, 50)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
**Feyenoord:** Zoetebier - Collen, Van Wonderen, De Haan, Rzasa (Van Haaren 66) - Emerton, Bosvelt, Tomasson, Paauwe, Kalou (Ono 74) - Van Hooijdonk.
**Bayern:** Kahn - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Lizarazu - Salihamidzic, Thiam (Hargreaves 46), Fink (Sforza 84), Paulo Sergio - Elber (Santa Cruz 79), Pizarro.

**Sparta Prague 2** (Kincl 57, Sionko 88)
**Moscow Spartak 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 17,221. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
**Sparta:** Cech - Grygera, Hubschmann, Novotny, Labant - Sionko, Hasek, Jarosik, Michalik (Zelenka 60) - Hartig (Holub 80), Kincl (Papousek 90).
**Spartak:** Levytskyi - Kovtun, Ananko, Mitrevski, Parfyonov - Baranov, Bulatov, Titov, Bezrodny (Tsykhmeistruk 57) - Beschastnykh, Robson (Lovchev 61).

**GROUP H**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sparta Prague | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| Bayern Munich | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| Feyenoord | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| Moscow Spartak | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 |

## UEFA CUP

### 1st rnd, 1st legs

**September 18**

**Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 0**
**Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 0**
**Att:** 19,200. **Ref:** Siric (Cro)

**September 19**

**Chernomorets (Rus) 0**
**Valencia (Spa) 1** (Mista 54)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Treossi (Ita)

**Westerlo (Blg) 0**
**Hertha (Ger) 2** (Schmidt 43, Beinlich 90)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Schmolik (Bls)

**September 20**

**AEK Athens (Gre) 2** (Tsartas pen 54, Nikolaidis 68)
**Hibernian (Sco) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,525. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)

**Ajax (Hol) 2** (Ibrahimovic 4, Machlas 60)
**Apollon (Cyp) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Stanisic (Yug)

**Aston Villa (Eng) 2** (Angel 54, 70)
**Varteks (Cro) 3** (Bjelanovic 44, 86, Karic 64)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 27,132. **Ref:** Gomes Costa (Por)

**BATE Borisov (Bls) 0**
**Milan (Ita) 2** (Shevchenko 63, Javi Moreno 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Dunn (Eng)

**Bordeaux (Fra) 5** (Pauleta 12, 76, Christian 42, Dugarry 52, 53)
**Debrecen (Hun) 1** (Tiber 37)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 13,958. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
*Sent off: Shketiani (Debrecen) 45min*

**Celta Vigo (Spa) 4** (Karpin 41, 88, Catanha pen 64, Edu 68)
**Sigma Olomouc (Cze) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Albrecht (Ger)

**Chelsea (Eng) 3** (Gudjohnsen 45, 73, Lampard 90)
**Levski Sofia (Bul) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,812. **Ref:** Fleischer (Ger)

**FC Copenhagen (Den) 2** (Fernandez 8, 67)
**Obilic (Yug) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Coue (Fra)

**CSKA Kyiv (Ukr) 3** (Skachenko 45, Kostyshin 49, Zakarlyuka 66)
**Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 2** (Maltsev 26, Acimovic pen 67)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** McDonald (Sco)

**CSKA Sofia (Bul) 3** (Manchev 26, 78, Penev 43)
**Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Bossen (Hol)

**Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 1** (Mihalcea pen 83)
**Grasshopper (Swi) 3** (Chapuisat 28, Mwaruwari 81, Nunez 86)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Koren (Isr)

**Dinamo Moscow (Rus) 1** (Khazov 22)
**Birkirkara (Mlt) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Richards (Wal)

**Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 2** (Agic 55, Sedloski 73)
**Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 2** (Goldberg 24, Dago 41)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Derrien (Fra)

**Dnipro (Ukr) 0**
**Fiorentina (Ita) 0**
**Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Leuba (Swi)

**Genclerbirligi (Tur) 1** (Youla 79)
**Halmstads (Swe) 1** (Selakovic 8)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Corpodean (Rom)

**Hajduk Split (Cro) 2** (Deranja 22, Srna 88)
**Wisla Krakow (Pol) 2** (Zurawski 49, Moskalewicz 90)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Almeida Costa (Por)

**FC Haka (Fin) 1** (Vaisanen 13)
**Union Berlin (Ger) 1** (Ristic 69)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 1,720. **Ref:** Bozinovski (Mac)

**Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 1** (Ryndziuk og 90)
**Gaziantepspor (Tur) 0**
**HT:** 0-0

**Inter Bratislava (Slk) 1** (Kratochvil 54)
**Litex Lovech (Bul) 0**
**HT:** 0-0

**Internazionale (Ita) 3** (Dalmat 23, Kallon 31, Di Biagio 41)
**Brasov (Rom) 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 6,439. **Ref:** Carmona Mendez (Spa)

**Ipswich Town (Eng) 1** (Bramble 85)
**Torpedo Moscow (Rus) 1** (Vyazmikin 14)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 21,201. **Ref:** Erdemir (Tur)

**Karnten (Aut) 0**
**PAOK Salonika (Gre) 0**

**Kilmarnock (Sco) 1** (Dargo 73)
**Viking (Nor) 1** (Sanne 45)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 6,322

**Legia Warsaw (Pol) 4** (Karwan 23, Vukovic 59, Kucharski 72, 80)
**Elfsborg (Swe) 1** (Klarstrom 42)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)

**Marila Pribram (Cze) 4** (Kulic 17, 60, 70, Montero og 68)
**Sedan (Fra) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 4,552. **Ref:** Briakos (Gre)

**Maritimo (Por) 1** (Bruno 33)
**Leeds United (Eng) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 10,500. **Ref:** Van Hulten (Hol)

**Midtjylland (Den) 0**
**Sporting Lisbon (Por) 3** (Babb 51, Beto 61, Jardel 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Salomir (Rom)

**Odd Grenland (Nor) 2** (Fevang 9, Van Ankeren 32)
**Helsingborgs (Swe) 2** (Hansson 26, Gustavsson 56)
**HT:** 2-1. **Ref:** Kaldma (Est)

**Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln) 2** (Zlogar 1, 61)
**Brondby (Den) 4** (Bagger 34, Johansen pen 54, Niznik 72, Gustavsson 56)
**HT:** 1-1

**Olympiakos Nicosia (Cyp) 2** (Themistocleous 5, Radosavljevic 80)
**Club Brugge (Blg) 2** (Verheyen 31, Lange 69)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 1,500

**Parma (Ita) 1** (Milosevic pen 21)
**HJK Helsinki (Fin) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 2,670. **Ref:** Freeland (Sco)

**Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 1** (Bajic 90)
**Rapid Wien (Aut) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 25,000

**Polonia Warsaw (Pol) 1** (Bak 76)
**Twente (Hol) 2** (Kollmann 60, Van der Laan 85)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Rennie (Eng)

**Servette (Swi) 1** (Oruma 76)
**Slavia Prague (Cze) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Douros (Gre)

**Slovan Liberec (Cze) 2** (Gyan 9, Nezmar 90)
**Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 0**
**HT:** 1-0

**St Gallen (Swi) 2** (Jefferson 33, Mokoena 58)
**Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 1** (Neaga 38)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Orrason (Ice)

**Standard Liege (Blg) 2** (Moreira 39, 84)
**Strasbourg (Fra) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 14,264. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)

**Utrecht (Hol) 3** (Van den Bergh 21, Tanghe 35, Gluscevic 49)
**Grazer AK (Aut) 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 13,500. **Ref:** Attard (Mlt)

**Zaragoza (Spa) 3** (Yordi 49, Juanele 77, Jose Ignacio 83)
**Silkeborg (Den) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Tokat Metin (Tur)

### 1st rnd, 2nd legs

**September 25**

**Fylkir (Ice) 1** (Johannesson 54)
**Roda JC (Hol) 3** (Zafarin 55, Berglund 77, Anastasiou 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Stredak (Cze)
*Roda 6-1 on agg*

**Gaziantepspor 1** (Ryndziuk 51)
**Hapoel Tel Aviv 1** (Osterc 19)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
*Hapoel 2-1 on agg*

**Hertha 1** (Marcelinho 85)
**Westerlo 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Peltola (Fin)
*Hertha 3-0 on agg*

**Maccabi Tel Aviv 1** (Nimni pen 41)
**Dinamo Zagreb 1** (Agic 32)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Rodriguez Santiago (Spa)
*Sent off: Drpic (Dinamo) 41min*
*Agg 3-3. Maccabi on away goals*

***Rapid Bucharest 0**
**Paris Saint-Germain 1** (Aloisio 93)
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Ceferin (Sln)
**Game abandoned after 113mins following a floodlight failure; awarded 3-0 to PSG because Rapid did not have the requisite back-up generator at the ground*
*PSG 3-0 on agg*

**FC Tirol (Aut) 1** (Glieder 49)
**Viktoria Zizkov (Cze) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Melnichuk (Ukr)
*Tirol 1-0 on agg*

**September 27**

**Apollon 0**
**Ajax 3** (Van der Vaart 35, Ibrahimovic 66, Wamberto 79)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Malcolm (NI)
*Ajax 5-0 on agg*

**Birkirkara 0**
**Dinamo Moscow 0**
*Dinamo 1-0 on agg*

**Brasov 0**
**Internazionale 3** (Ventola 13, 79, Guglielminpietro 35)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Vuorela (Fin)
*Inter 6-0 on agg*

**Brondby 0**
**Olimpija Ljubljana 0**
**Ref:** Gilewski (Pol)
*Brondby 4-2 on agg*

**Club Brugge 7** (Lange 22, 87, Sillah 27, Martens 47, Englebert 57, Simons 70, Ceh 90)
**Olympiakos Nicosia 1** (Themistocleous 88)
**HT:** 2-0
*Club Brugge 9-3 on agg*

**Debrecen 3** (Plokai 44, Kerekes pen 58, 68)
**Bordeaux 1** (Pauleta 79)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Torres Esquina (Spa)
*Bordeaux 6-4 on agg*

**Elfsborg 1** (Karlsson 55)
**Legia Warsaw 6** (Yahaya 35, Sokokowski 65, 90, Skaw 75, Kucharski 80, Kielbowicz 89)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 2,602. **Ref:** Jara (Cze)
*Legia 10-2 on agg*

**Fiorentina 2** (Adani 75, Chiesa 77)
**Dnipro 1** (Slabishev 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,150. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
*Fiorentina 2-1 on agg*

**Freiburg (Ger) 2** (Coulibaly 20, Tanko 88)
**Matador Puchov (Slk) 1** (Pernis 51)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 18,855. **Ref:** Kliuschnikov (Rus)
*Freiburg 2-1 on agg*

**Grasshopper 3** (Baturina 18, Chapuisat 21, Morales 87)
**Dinamo Bucharest 1** (Mihalcea pen 52)
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Liba (Cze)
*Grasshopper 6-2 on agg*

**Grazer AK 3** (Bazina 4, Brunmayr 20, Akwuegbu 36)
**Utrecht 3** (Kuijt 46, Zwaanswijk 55, Jochemsen 69)
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Olsen (Nor)
*Sent off: Kulovits (Grazer) 70min*
*Utrecht 6-3 on agg*

**Halmstads 1** (Arvidsson 21)
**Genclerbirligi 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Brugger (Aut)
*Halmstads 2-1 on agg*

**Helsingborgs 1** (Alvaro 3)
**Odd Grenland 1** (Fevang 43)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Shebek (Ukr)
*Agg 3-3. Helsingborgs on away goals*

**Hibernian 3** (Luna 52, 82, Zitelli 114)
**AEK Athens 2** (Tsartas 92, 105)
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 2-0. **Att:** 16,647. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)
*AEK 4-3 on agg*

**HJK Helsinki 0**
**Parma 2** (Marchionni 79, Bonazzoli 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 7,588. **Ref:** Mikulski (Pol)
*Parma 3-0 on agg*

**Leeds United 3** (Keane 20, Kewell 37, Bakke 62)
**Maritimo 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 38,125. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
*Leeds 3-1 on agg*

**Levski Sofia 0**
**Chelsea 2** (Terry 32, Gudjohnsen 45)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Ingvarsson (Swe)
*Chelsea 5-0 on agg*

**Litex Lovech 3** (Jankovic 43, 45, Petrov 84)
**Inter Bratislava 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** D'Urso (Eng)
*Lovech 3-1 on agg*

**Milan 4** (Rui Costa 20, Javi Moreno 45, Sarr 55, Inzaghi pen 73)
**BATE Borisov 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Wack (Ger)
*Milan 6-0 on agg*

**Obilic 2** (Vujosevic 32, 47)
**FC Copenhagen 2** (Fernandez 75, 85)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Drabek (Aut)
*Copenhagen 4-2 on agg*

**Osijek (Cro) 1** (Fuka 64)
**Gorica (Sln) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Ansuategui Roca (Spa)
*Osijek 3-1 on agg*

**PAOK Salonika 4** (Konstantinidis 25, 52, Kafes 50, Luciano 75)
**Karnten 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Paraty Da Silva (Por)
*Sent off: Holler (Karnten) 65min*
*PAOK 4-0 on agg*

**Rapid Wien 5** (Wallner 15, 60, Taument 33, Wagner 65, 75)
**Partizan Belgrade 1** (Cakar 55)
**HT:** 2-0
*Rapid 5-2 on agg*

**Red Star Belgrade 0**
**CSKA Kyiv 0**
*CSKA 3-2 on agg*

**Ruzomberok (Slk) 1** (Oravec 56)
**Troyes (Fra) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Stadsgaard (Den)
*Troyes 6-2 on agg*

**Sedan 3** (N'Diefi 29, Brogno 52, pen 55)
**Marila Pribram 1** (Siegl 47)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Frolich (Ger)
*Pribram 5-3 on agg*

**Shakhtar Donetsk 2** (Zubov 31, Vorobei 51)
**CSKA Sofia 1** (Okoronkwo og 89)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Schluchter (Swi)
*CSKA 4-2 on agg*

**Sigma Olomouc 4** (Siegl 47, Kotrys 57, Mucha 58, 64)
**Celta Vigo 3** (McCarthy 2, Caceres 32, Coira 89)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
*Celta 7-4 on agg*

**Silkeborg 1** (Larsen 39)
**Zaragoza 2** (Yordi 24, Jamelli 90)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Bede (Hun)
*Zaragoza 5-1 on agg*

**Slavia Prague 1** (Petrous 89)
**Servette 1** (Oruna 13)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Baskarov (Rus)
*Sent off: Claiton (Servette) 71min*
*Servette 2-1 on agg*

**Slovan Bratislava 1** (Mojic 22)
**Slovan Liberec 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Gallagher (Eng)
*Slovan Liberec 2-1 on agg*

**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Jardel 4, 45, Skriver og 86)
**Midtjylland 2** (Lindqvist 54, Souko 55)
**HT:** 2-0
*Sporting 6-2 on agg*

**Steaua Bucharest 1** (Raducanu 11)
**St Gallen 1** (Guido 59)
**HT:** 1-0
*St Gallen 3-2 on agg*

**Strasbourg 2** (Ljuboja 4, 37)
**Standard Liege 2** (Goossens 55, Vandooren 59)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 12,227. **Ref:** Kosz (Sln)
*Standard 4-2 on agg*

**Torpedo Moscow 1** (Vyazmikin 66)
**Ipswich Town 2** (George 47, Stewart pen 54)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Garibian (Fra)
*Ipswich 3-2 on agg*

**Twente 2** (Kollmann 70, Booth 71)
**Polonia Warsaw 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Kapitanis (Cyp)
*Twente 4-1 on agg*

**Union Berlin 3** (Djurkovic 36, Chifon 44, Koilov 89)
**FC Haka 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 12,111. **Ref:** Bennet (Eng)
*Union 4-1 on agg*

**Valencia 5** (Sanchez 6, 22, Ilie 18, Salva 52, Rufete 68)
**Chernomorets 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Van Egmond (Hol)
*Valencia 6-0 on agg*

**Varteks 0**
**Aston Villa 1** (Hadji 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Vollquartz (Den)
*Agg 3-3. Varteks on away goals*

**Viking 2** (Sanne 1, Nevland 17)
**Kilmarnock 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 4,599. **Ref:** Romain (Blg)
*Viking 3-1 on agg*

**Wisla Krakow 1** (Frankowski 22)
**Hajduk Split 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Borovilos (Gre)
*Sent off: Vejic (Hajduk) 50min*
*Wisla 3-2 on agg*

## 1st rnd

**September 27**

***Anzhi Makhachkala (Rus) 0**
**Rangers (Sco) 1** (Konterman 84)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 3,700. **Ref:** Steinborn (Ger)
**Tie decided over a single leg, played on neutral ground, in Warsaw*

## 2nd rnd draw

Bordeaux v Standard Liege; Brondby v Varteks; Celta Vigo v Slovan Liberec; FC Copenhagen v Ajax; CSKA Kyiv v Club Brugge; Fiorentina v FC Tirol; Grasshopper v Twente; Halmstads v Sporting Lisbon; Hapoel Tel Aviv v Chelsea; Internazionale v Wisla Krakow; Ipswich Town v Helsingborgs; Leeds United v Troyes; Legia Warsaw v Valencia; Milan v CSKA Sofia; Osijek v AEK Athens; PAOK Salonika v Marila Pribram; Paris Saint-Germain v Rapid Wien; Rangers v Dinamo Moscow; Roda JC v Maccabi Tel Aviv; St Gallen v Freiburg; Union Berlin v Litex Lovech; Utrecht v Parma; Viking v Hertha; Zaragoza v Servette.
*1st legs, October 16-18; 2nd legs, November 1*

# AUSTRIA

**Sep 15:** Admira 1 Bregenz 3; Austria Wien 0 Salzburg 1; SV Ried 1 Karnten 1.
**Sep 16:** Sturm Graz 1 Rapid Wien 1; FC Tirol 7 Grazer AK 0.
**Sep 22:** Bregenz 1 FC Tirol 2; Salzburg 0 Sturm Graz 2.
**Sep 23:** Karnten 2 Admira 0; Grazer AK 4 Austria Wien 2; Rapid Wien 2 SV Ried 0.
**Sep 29:** SV Ried 2 Bregenz 3; Sturm Graz 2 Austria Wien 1; FC Tirol 3 Salzburg 0.
**Sep 30:** Admira 1 Grazer AK 3; Rapid Wien 0 Karnten 1.

**AUSTRIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FC Tirol | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 31 | 1 | 29 |
| Sturm Graz | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 24 | 9 | 27 |
| Grazer AK | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 21 | 21 |
| Karnten | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 16 | 18 |
| Salzburg | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 15 | 16 |
| Rapid Wien | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 18 | 15 |
| Austria Wien | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 20 | 14 |
| Bregenz | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 27 | 13 |
| SV Ried | 13 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 23 | 12 |
| Admira | 13 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 29 | 7 |

# BELGIUM

### Saturday, September 15

**Gent 2** (Schepens 47, Nielsen 64)
**Beveren 1** (Zezeto 38) Att: 7,500

**Germinal BA 1** (Haagdoren 79)
**Genk 1** (Dagano 1) Att: 8,500

**Lierse 2** (Frigard 47, Gadiaga 61)
**Anderlecht 0** Att: 9,000

**Lommel 3** (Waligora 32, pen 90, Tankary 75)
**Lokeren 4** (Gretarsson pen 27, Zoundi 33, Bangoura 80, 84) Att: 6,000

**RWDM 1** (Kolotilko 27)
**St Truiden 2** (Mbonabucya 9, 22) Att: 6,000

### Sunday, September 16

**Charleroi 4** (Dufer 24, Negouai 27, Yazdani 38, Martine 81)
**Westerlo 2** (Smits 68, Severeyns 90) Att: 8,072

**Club Brugge 2** (Lange 69, Mendoza 77)
**La Louviere 1** (Diaz 21) Att: 16,000

**Eendracht Aalst 0**
**Royal Antwerp 0** Att: 6,000

**Standard 2** (Goossens 43, 56)
**Mouscron 1** (Casto 90) Att: 8,000

### Saturday, September 22

**Genk 4** (Sonck 1, 77, Dagano 6, Beslija 89)
**Lierse 2** (Imschoot 14, Snoeckx 74) Att: 19,825

**La Louviere 1** (Turaci 23)
**Eendracht Aalst 3** (Stojak 59, 61, De Wilde 68) Att: 5,000

**Mouscron 4** (Marcin Zewlakow 36, Vidovic 51, Gregoire 85, Bakadal 88)
**RWDM 1** (Allou 84) Att: 9,000

**St Truiden 2** (Boffin pen 60, Mbonabucya 79)
**Germinal BA 2** (Haagdoren 10, 89) Att: 4,500

### Sunday, September 23

**Beveren 0**
**Lommel 2** (Culek 15, Tankary 81) Att: 3,000

**Royal Antwerp 2** (Goots pen 39, De Neys 53)
**Gent 3** (Vanic pen 62, Nielsen 64, Oyawole 72) Att: 7,000

### Saturday, September 29

**Charleroi 1** (Negouai 7)
**Beveren 1** (Van Rumst 89) Att: 9,992

**Gent 2** (Nielsen 18, Schepens 40)
**La Louviere 1** (Delbeeke 35) Att: 8,000

**Germinal BA 2** (Reigel 58, Kpaka 76)
**Lierse 0** Att: 10,000

**Lommel 2** (Hoefkens 3, Tankary 14)
**Royal Antwerp 2** (Mertens 30, 61) Att: 6,000

**RWDM 0**
**Westerlo 1** (Smits 10) Att: 4,500

**St Truiden 1** (Pereira 79)
**Mouscron 2** (Marcin Zewlakow 53, 77) Att: 8,000

### Sunday, September 30

**Club Brugge 1** (Lange 82)
**Genk 2** (Sonck 29, Thijs pen 90) Att: 17,000

**Eendracht Aalst 1** (Van Hoyweghen 13)
**Anderlecht 5** (Ilic 10, Baseggio 22, Dindane 29, 74, Mornar 63) Att: 9,000

**Standard 0**
**Lokeren 2** (Enakarhire og 29, Vonasek 70) Att: 8,000

**BELGIUM**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gent | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 7 | 21 |
| Eendracht Aalst | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 16 |
| Club Brugge | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 15 |
| Genk | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 20 | 12 | 14 |
| Anderlecht | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 11 |
| Standard | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 11 |
| St Truiden | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| Charleroi | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 11 |
| Germinal BA | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 11 | 10 |
| Lommel | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 18 | 10 |
| Lierse | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Lokeren | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Westerlo | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 6 |
| Mouscron | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 6 |
| Royal Antwerp | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 5 |
| Beveren | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 2 |
| RWDM | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 1 |
| La Louviere | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 23 | 1 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
9 Wesley Sonck (Genk)
8 Desire Mbonabucya (St Truiden)
7 Rune Lange (Club Brugge)
7 Anders Nielsen (Gent)

# BULGARIA

**Sep 15:** Beroe 0 Marek 0; Spartak Pleven 2 Spartak Varna 0; Slavia 1 Belasitsa 0; Cherno More 0 Neftohimik 3; Levski 3 Lokomotiv Sofia 2; Lovech 2 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1.
**Sep 16:** Chernomorets 0 CSKA 0.
**Sep 22:** Lokomotiv Plovdiv 5 Beroe 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Cherno More 2; Spartak Varna 3 Chernomorets 0; Marek 3 Spartak Pleven 5.
**Sep 23:** Belasitsa 0 Levski 2; CSKA 5 Slavia 0; Neftohimik 1 Lovech 1.
**Sep 29:** Beroe 0 Spartak Pleven 2; Chernomorets 1 Marek 0; Slavia 1 Spartak Varna 1; Cherno More 2 Belasitsa 1; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Neftohimik 0.
**Sep 30:** Levski 2 CSKA 0; Lovech 5 Lokomotiv Sofia 3.

**BULGARIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Levski | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 19 |
| CSKA | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 5 | 17 |
| Lok Plovdiv | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 8 | 16 |
| Neftohimik | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 15 |
| Lovech | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 12 | 14 |
| Cherno More | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 12 |
| Spartak Pleven | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 12 |
| Lok Sofia | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 11 |
| Spartak Varna | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| Slavia | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 9 |
| Chernomorets | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 6 |
| Belasitsa | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 4 |
| Marek | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 4 |
| Beroe | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 4 |

# CROATIA

**Sep 15:** TSK 2 Rijeka 3; Cibalia 0 Slaven 2; Zadar 1 Hajduk 5; Dinamo 1 Cakovec 0.
**Sep 16:** Varteks 2 Osijek 1; Sibenik 0 Hrvatski drag 0; Pomorac 0 Kamen Ingrad 1; Marsonia 1 Zagreb 2.
**Sep 22:** Hrvatski drag 5 Pomorac 1; Slaven 1 Sibenik 0; Osijek 1 Cakovec 2.
**Sep 23:** Varteks 3 Marsonia 0; Hajduk 1 Cibalia 0; Rijeka 1 Zadar 1; Zagreb 8 TSK 0.
**Sep 29:** Cibalia 1 Rijeka 1; Cakovec 2 Kamen Ingrad 0; Dinamo 2 Hrvatski drag 1.
**Sep 30:** TSK 4 Varteks 1; Marsonia 2 Osijek 0; Zadar 0 Zagreb 0; Sibenik 1 Hajduk 2; Pomorac 1 Slaven 0.

**CROATIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zagreb | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 25 | 6 | 23 |
| Dinamo | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 5 | 22 |
| Varteks | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 13 | 19 |
| Hajduk | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 10 | 18 |
| Rijeka | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 14 |
| Cakovec | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 14 |
| Slaven | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 13 |
| Zadar | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Hrvatski drag | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 14 | 11 |
| Pomorac | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 11 |
| Cibalia | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 8 |
| Marsonia | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 7 |
| Kamen Ingrad | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 7 |
| TSK | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 27 | 7 |
| Osijek | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 6 |
| Sibenik | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 5 |

## CZECH REPUBLIC

**Sep 14:** Brno 1 Ostrava 1.
**Sep 15:** Sparta 2 Zizkov 0.
**Sep 16:** Teplice 4 Hradec Kralove 3; Synot 0 Jablonec 0; Chmel Blsany 1 Drnovice 3; Liberec 3 Olomouc 3; Opava 1 Pribram 2.
**Sep 17:** Bohemians 1 Slavia 0.
**Sep 21:** Drnovice 0 Sparta 2.
**Sep 22:** Teplice 2 Brno 2.
**Sep 23:** Hradec Kralove 1 Pribram 0; Jablonec 1 Chmel Blsany 0; Slavia 0 Synot 1; Ostrava 1 Bohemians 1.
**Sep 24:** Olomouc 3 Opava 1.
**Sep 28:** Bohemians 1 Teplice 0.
**Sep 29:** Sparta 1 Jablonec 0.
**Sep 30:** Brno 2 Hradec Kralove 1; Synot 0 Ostrava 4; Chmel Blsany 1 Slavia 2; Opava 0 Zizkov 1; Pribram 1 Olomouc 1.
**Oct 1:** Liberec 1 Drnovice 1.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sparta | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 6 | 21 |
| Bohemians | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 20 |
| Ostrava | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 9 | 17 |
| Zizkov | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 16 |
| Slavia | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 13 | 16 |
| Liberec | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 13 |
| Brno | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 13 |
| Jablonec | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 12 |
| Synot | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 12 |
| Drnovice | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| Chmel Blsany | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 16 | 10 |
| Olomouc | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 10 |
| Hradec Kralove | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 21 | 9 |
| Teplice | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 8 |
| Pribram | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 8 |
| Opava | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 19 | 1 |

## DENMARK

**Sep 12:** Esbjerg 2 OB 0.
**Sep 16:** Vejle 1 Midtjylland 1; OB 2 AB 2; Silkeborg 1 AaB 2; Viborg 0 Esbjerg 2; Brondby 2 FC Copenhagen 0.
**Sep 17:** Lyngby 1 AGF 1.
**Sep 23:** Silkeborg 0 Midtjylland 1; Vejle 1 AB 1; Lyngby 2 OB 2; Brondby 0 Viborg 0; AaB 1 FC Copenhagen 1.
**Sep 24:** Esbjerg 4 AGF 1.
**Sep 30:** FC Copenhagen 1 Lyngby 0; OB 5 Vejle 1; AB 2 Esbjerg 0; AGF 2 Silkeborg 2; Midtjylland 1 Brondby 1; Viborg 2 AaB 3.

**DENMARK**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brondby | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 4 | 23 |
| AaB | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 13 | 22 |
| AB | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 16 |
| Esbjerg | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 16 |
| FC Copenhagen | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 15 |
| Midtjylland | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 14 |
| Lyngby | 10 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 12 |
| OB | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 15 | 12 |
| Viborg | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 10 |
| Vejle | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 21 | 10 |
| AGF | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 7 |
| Silkeborg | 10 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 20 | 3 |

## ENGLAND

### Saturday, September 15

**Bolton 0**
**Southampton 1** (Pahars 77) Att: 24,378

**Derby 2** (Burton 4, Ravanelli pen 86)
**Leicester 3** (Sturridge 30, 64, Izzet pen 90) Att: 26,863

**Everton 1** (Campbell 5)
**Liverpool 3** (Gerrard 12, Owen pen 31, Riise 52) Att: 39,554

**Fulham 1** (Malbranque 48)
**Arsenal 3** (Ljungberg 17, Henry 82, Bergkamp 90) Att: 20,805

**Middlesbrough 2** (Deane 31, Johnston 41)
**West Ham 0** Att: 25,445

**Newcastle 4** (Robert 5, Lee 34, Dabizas 52, Shearer 82)
**Man Utd 3** (Van Nistelrooy 29, Giggs 62, Veron 64) Att: 52,056

### Sunday, September 16

**Aston Villa 0**
**Sunderland 0** Att: 31,668

**Charlton 0**
**Leeds 2** (Keane 21, Mills 62) Att: 20,451

**Ipswich 1** (Armstrong 15)
**Blackburn 1** (Jansen 54) Att: 22,126

**Tottenham 2** (Sheringham 66, 90)
**Chelsea 3** (Hasselbaink 45, pen 81, Desailly 90) Att: 36,037

### Monday, September 17

**Leicester 1** (Jones 9)
**Middlesbrough 2** (Ince 84, Greening 87) Att: 15,412

### Wednesday, September 19

**Blackburn 1** (Neill 87)
**Bolton 1** (Wallace 69) Att: 25,949

**Sunderland 1** (Phillips 79)
**Tottenham 2** (Ziege 26, Sheringham 51) Att: 47,310

### Saturday, September 22

**Arsenal 1** (Jeffers 74)
**Bolton 1** (Ricketts 83) Att: 38,014

**Blackburn 1** (Grabbi 37)
**Everton 0** Att: 27,732

**Leicester 0**
**Fulham 0** Att: 18,918

**Liverpool 1** (Litmanen 57)
**Tottenham 0** Att: 44,116

**Man Utd 4** (Johnsen 13, Solskjaer 20, 90, Cole 89)
**Ipswich 0** Att: 67,551

**Sunderland 2** (Quinn 74, 77)
**Charlton 2** (Bartlett 11, Brown 61) Att: 46,825

### Sunday, September 23

**Chelsea 2** (Hasselbaink 3, 37)
**Middlesbrough 2** (Stockdale 61, Boksic pen 90) Att: 36,767

**Leeds 3** (Bakke 9, Kewell 74, 78)
**Derby 0** Att: 39,155

**West Ham 3** (Hutchison 18, Di Canio 57, Kanoute 81)
**Newcastle 0** Att: 28,840

### Monday, September 24

**Southampton 1** (Pahars 45)
**Aston Villa 3** (Boateng 9, Angel 15, Hadji 79) Att: 26,794

### Wednesday, September 26

**Newcastle 1** (Solano 33)
**Leicester 0** Att: 49,185

### Saturday, September 29

**Bolton 0**
**Sunderland 2** (Phillips 77, Craddock 83) Att: 24,250

**Charlton 2** (Johansson 45, Bartlett 56)
**Leicester 0** Att: 20,451

**Derby 0**
**Arsenal 2** (Henry 21, pen 65) Att: 29,200

**Everton 5** (Campbell 45, Hutchison og 52, Gravesen 56, Watson 75, Radzinski 79)
**West Ham 0** Att: 32,049

**Middlesbrough 1** (Boksic pen 75)
**Southampton 3** (Beattie 66, 86, Pahars pen 73) Att: 26,142

**Tottenham 3** (Richards 15, Ferdinand 25, Ziege 45)
**Man Utd 5** (Cole 46, Blanc 58, Van Nistelrooy 72, Veron 76, Beckham 86) Att: 36,038

### Sunday, September 30

**Aston Villa 2** (Angel 46, Vassell 72)
**Blackburn 0** Att: 28,623

**Fulham 1** (Hayles 56)
**Chelsea 1** (Hasselbaink 32) Att: 20,197

**Ipswich 1** (Stewart 22)
**Leeds 2** (Keane 70, Venus og 86) Att: 22,643

**Newcastle 0**
**Liverpool 2** (Riise 3, Murphy 86) Att: 52,059

**ENGLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leeds | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 17 |
| Arsenal | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 5 | 14 |
| Man Utd | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 13 | 14 |
| Aston Villa | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Bolton | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Liverpool | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 12 |
| Sunderland | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 12 |
| Newcastle | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Chelsea | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 7 | 10 |
| Everton | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 10 |
| Blackburn | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Charlton | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Tottenham | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 8 |
| Fulham | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Middlesbrough | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 7 |
| Southampton | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 6 |
| Ipswich | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 5 |
| West Ham | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| Derby | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 5 |
| Leicester | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 5 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
7 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
6 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)

## FRANCE

### Saturday, September 15

**Bastia 0**
**Auxerre 1** (Kapo 65) Att: 7,739

**Guingamp 0**
**Metz 2** (Baticle 37, Moreno 81) Att: 7,825

**Lens 3** (Saveljic og 18, Coridon 45, Moreira 61)
**Sochaux 0** Att: 33,141

**Lorient 1** (Feindouno 76)
**Paris SG 1** (Anelka 88) Att: 14,496

**Lyon 4** (Luyindula 16, 90, Foe 37, Carriere 65)
**Nantes 1** (Quint pen 42) Att: 34,234

**Montpellier 0**
**Rennes 0** Att: 10,143

**Troyes 0**
**Lille 1** (Sterjovski 62) Att: 12,443

### Sunday, September 16

**Bordeaux 0**
**Monaco 0** Att: 25,000

**Sedan 1** (Peyrelade 20)
**Marseille 1** (Van Buyten 16) Att: 21,000

### Friday, September 21

**Paris SG 0**
**Montpellier 0** Att: 38,611

### Saturday, September 22

**Auxerre 2** (Kapo 69, Fadiga pen 84)
**Guingamp 2** (Kouassi 70, Tasfaout 85) Att: 8,000

**Lille 2** (Fahmi 70, Bruno Cheyrou 90)
**Bastia 1** (Jau 66) Att: 16,565

**Marseille 2** (Bakayoko 85, 90)
**Nantes 0** Att: 52,000

**Metz 2** (Gaillot 38, 70)
**Lyon 0** Att: 16,894

**Monaco 3** (Nyarko 33, Giuly 47, Nonda 54)
**Lens 0** Att: 10,000

**Rennes 0**
**Troyes 1** (Leroy 70) Att: 13,754

### Sunday, September 23

**Lorient 0**
**Bordeaux 2** (Dugarry 56, Pauleta 88) Att: 12,000

**Sochaux 3** (Diao og 23, Pagis 51, Frau 65)
**Sedan 0** Att: 15,000

### Saturday, September 29

**Bastia 1** (Beneforti 29)
**Monaco 0** Att: 5,500

**Guingamp 1** (Fiorese 9)
**Marseille 0** Att: 12,774

**Lens 1** (Moreira 6)
**Auxerre 1** (Tainio 43) Att: 37,128

**Lyon 4** (Luyindula 2, Juninho 17, pen 43, Govou 56)
**Rennes 0** Att: 30,881

**Montpellier 1** (Rui Pataca 73)
**Lorient 3** (Guel 11, 37, Kroupi 90) Att: 8,234

**Nantes 0**
**Metz 0** Att: 30,000

### Sunday, September 30

**Bordeaux 1** (Pauleta 26)
**Paris SG 0** Att: 30,951

**Sedan 1** (Celdran 19)
**Lille 1** (Olufade 78) Att: 16,000

**Troyes 2** (Boutal 54, Niang 83)
**Sochaux 2** (Crucet 2, Frau 8) Att: 14,500

**FRANCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lyon | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 6 | 19 |
| Auxerre | 9 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 6 | 19 |
| Lille | 9 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 19 |
| Lens | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 18 |
| Sochaux | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 15 |
| Bordeaux | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 13 |
| Bastia | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 13 |
| Paris SG | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 12 |
| Lorient | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 12 |
| Troyes | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 11 |
| Guingamp | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 11 |
| Metz | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 10 |
| Monaco | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| Montpellier | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Sedan | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 8 |
| Rennes | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 8 |
| Marseille | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Nantes | 9 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 3 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
7 Djibril Cisse (Auxerre)
5 Olivier Monterrubio (Rennes)

## GERMANY

### Saturday, September 15

**Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Ballack 44, Kirsten 60, Schneider 80)
**St Pauli 1** (Rath 79) Att: 21,000

**Bayern Munich 1** (Elber 89)
**Freiburg 0** Att: 46,000

**Hamburg 3** (Benjamin 14, Albertz pen 17, 89)
**Borussia MG 3** (Munch 22, Van Houdt 56, Mieciel 90) Att: 54,092

**Nurnberg 0**
**Kaiserslautern 2** (Lincoln 67, Klos 74) Att: 30,000

**Schalke 1** (Moller 17)
**Borussia Dortmund 0** Att: 60,204

**Werder Bremen 1** (Ailton 68)
**Koln 1** (Lottner 15) Att: 26,718

**Wolfsburg 0**
**Stuttgart 2** (Seitz 8, Balakov pen 65) Att: 12,476

### Sunday, September 16

**Hansa Rostock 0**
**Energie Cottbus 0** Att: 21,500

**Hertha 2** (Tapalovic og 59, Preetz 79)
**1860 Munich 1** (Agostino 45) Att: 25,000

### Saturday, September 22

**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Amoroso 7)
**Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Berbatov 79) Att: 64,500

**Energie Cottbus 0**
**Bayern Munich 3** (Zickler 2, Pizarro 3, Matyus og 74) Att: 20,100

**Freiburg 2** (Hajto og 55, Tanko 66)
**Schalke 0** Att: 25,000

**Hamburg 0**
**Werder Bremen 4** (Ailton 13, Bode 34, Ernst 84, Stalteri 86) Att: 43,014

**Kaiserslautern 4** (Klose 23, Lokvenc 50, Preetz og 84, Lincoln 85)
**Hertha 1** (Marcelinho 80) Att: 36,927

**Koln 1** (Baranek 24)
**Nurnberg 2** (Nikl 15, Sanneh 28) Att: 29,000

**Stuttgart 2** (Balakov pen 55, Ganea 85)
**Hansa Rostock 1** (Jakobsson 11) Att: 19,500

### Sunday, September 23

**Borussia MG 2** (Van Lent pen 51, Van Houdt 89)
**St Pauli 2** (Bajramovic 60, Meggle 90) Att: 30,912

**1860 Munich 2** (Borimirov 5, Max 75)
**Wolfsburg 1** (Akonnor 67) Att: 18,000

### Saturday, September 29

**Hansa Rostock 2** (Wibran 24, 62)
**1860 Munich 2** (Max 3, Baumgart og 86) Att: 16,000

**Hertha 3** (Deisler pen 27, Marcelinho 49, Preetz 85)
**Koln 0** Att: 25,000

**Nurnberg 0**
**Hamburg 0** Att: 32,000

**Schalke 2** (Mpenza 19, Asamoah 33)
**Energie Cottbus 0** Att: 60,204

**St Pauli 1** (Meggle 77)
**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Ewerthon 12, Koller 33) Att: 21,725

**Werder Bremen 1** (Verlaat 85)
**Borussia MG 0** Att: 33,231

**Wolfsburg 2** (Juskowiak 14, Greiner 82)
**Kaiserslautern 0** Att: 14,758

### Sunday, September 30

**Bayer Leverkusen 4** (Basturk 11, 23, Ballack 42, Neuville 60)
**Freiburg 1** (Sellimi 25) Att: 22,500

**Bayern Munich 4** (Elber 9, 13, 59, Paulo Sergio 90)
**Stuttgart 0** Att: 61,000

**GERMANY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kaiserslautern | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 9 | 21 |
| Bayern Munich | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 2 | 19 |
| B Leverkusen | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 8 | 18 |
| B Dortmund | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 16 |
| Schalke | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 14 |
| Stuttgart | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 12 |
| Hertha | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Werder Bremen | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Energie Cottbus | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 11 |
| 1860 Munich | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 11 |
| Borussia MG | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Freiburg | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 8 |
| Koln | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| Nurnberg | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 7 |
| Hamburg | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 6 |
| Wolfsburg | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 15 | 6 |
| Hansa Rostock | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 6 |
| St Pauli | 8 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 3 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
6 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
5 Marcio Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)
5 Arie Van Lent (Borussia MG)

## GREECE

**Sep 22:** Olympiakos 3 Iraklis 0.
**Sep 23:** Akratitos 2 Xanthi 0; Panahaiki 5 Algaleo 3; Panionios 2 Panathinaikos 2; OFI 2 Ethnikos A 0; PAOK 1 Aris 1; Ionikos 1 AEK 2.
**Sep 29:** Xanthi 2 Panahaiki 0.
**Sep 30:** Olympiakos 2 Panionios 0; Panathinaikos 5 OFI 1; Ethnikos A 2 Akratitos 1; Aris 1 Ionikos 0; AEK 4 Algaleo 0; Iraklis 3 PAOK 1.

**GREECE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AEK | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Olympiakos | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Panathinaikos | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Aris | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Akratitos | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Panahaiki | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Xanthi | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Iraklis | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Ethnikos A | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| OFI | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Panionios | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| PAOK | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Ionikos | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Algaleo | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 0 |

## HOLLAND

### Friday, September 14

**Fortuna 1** (Emeran 59)
**Willem II 2** (Landzaat 64, 67) Att: 5,500

### Saturday, September 15

**Feyenoord 2** (Tomasson 34, Van Hooijdonk 45)
**De Graafschap 0** Att: 38,000

**NAC 2** (Cristiano 35, Salmon 87)
**PSV 0** Att: 14,258

**Vitesse 1** (Kreek 21)
**Sparta 1** (Koevermans 83) Att: 23,500

### Sunday, September 16

**Ajax 1** (Van der Vaart 90)
**AZ 0** Att: 32,353

**Den Bosch 2** (Maximiano 64, Van den Eede 83)
**NEC 1** (Tumba 43) Att: 5,150

**Groningen 3** (Broerse pen 32, Drent 45, Tuhuteru 75)
**Twente 0** Att: 11,219

**RKC 2** (Hoogendorp pen 45, Assouiki 90)
**Heerenveen 1** (Allback 41) Att: 5,500

**Utrecht 4** (Gluscevic 23, 39, Tanghe 38, 43)
**Roda JC 1** (Tomasic 37) Att: 13,000

### Friday, September 21

**Roda JC 4** (Soetaers 27, 37, Vrede 65, Anastasiou 75)
**Den Bosch 1** (Van den Eede 77) Att: 13,500

### Saturday, September 22

**Heerenveen 4** (Allback 13, Denneboom 27, Jensen 61, Nurmela 66)
**PSV 1** (Rommedahl 39) Att: 14,300

**RKC 1** (Hoogendorp pen 63)
**Fortuna 0** Att: 6,000

### Sunday, September 23

**Ajax 3** (Van der Vaart 11, Hossam 17, 25)
**Sparta 0** Att: 32,388

**AZ 1** (Perez 89)
**Utrecht 0** Att: 6,876

**De Graafschap 0**
**Vitesse 2** (Van Beukering 30, Van der Schaaf 78) Att: 11,000

**NEC 1** (Jansen 48)
**Groningen 0** Att: 9,000

### Friday, September 28

**De Graafschap 4** (Van den Brom 27, Meerdink pen 69, 83, Turpijn 87)
**NAC 2** (Cristiano 19, Hersi 26) Att: 10,450

### Saturday, September 29

**Fortuna 2** (Hamming 13, Akerboom 74)
**NEC 2** (Zonneveld 51, Ax 83) Att: 6,500

**PSV 0**
**Vitesse 2** (Claessens 10, Janssen 24) Att: 31,000

**Willem II 2** (Landzaat pen 47, Mariana 54)
**AZ 2** (Nelisse 43, Van Nieuwstadt og 90) Att: 13,300

### Sunday, September 30

**Den Bosch 0**
**Feyenoord 0** Att: 5,897

**Groningen 1** (Broerse 52)
**Ajax 4** (Van der Vaart 35, Wamberto 45, Van der Meyde 77, Machlas 90) Att: 13,000

**Roda JC 0**
**Heerenveen 2** (Jensen 4, Allback 49) Att: 14,000

**Sparta 1** (Marbus 60)
**Twente 1** (Van der Laan 7) Att: 7,436

**Utrecht 2** (Gluscevic 32, Tanghe 78)
**RKC 1** (Van Diemen 59) Att: 13,000

### Sunday, October 7

**Sparta 1** (Boukhari pen 90)
**Den Bosch 1** (Mghizrat 12) Att: 6,340

**HOLLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ajax | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Vitesse | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 15 |
| Feyenoord | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 13 |
| Heerenveen | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 11 |
| Willem II | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 11 |
| RKC | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 10 |
| Den Bosch | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| De Graafschap | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| AZ | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| Utrecht | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| Twente | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| NEC | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| PSV | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 7 |
| NAC | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 14 | 7 |
| Groningen | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 7 |
| Sparta | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 7 |
| Fortuna | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 5 |
| Roda JC | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 4 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
7 Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)
5 Denny Landzaat (Willem II)
5 Rafael Van der Vaart (Ajax)

## HUNGARY

**Sep 14:** Vasas 1 Ferencvaros 3.
**Sep 15:** Gyor 3 Haladas 3; Kispest-Honved 1 Matav 3; Zalaegerszeg 2 Videoton 3; MTK 3 Dunaferr 2.
**Sep 16:** Debrecen 4 Ujpest 0.
**Sep 21:** Haladas 0 MTK 5.
**Sep 22:** Ferencvaros 3 Gyor 1; Videoton 0 Kispest-Honved 0; Matav 1 Ujpest 4.
**Sep 23:** Vasas 1 Debrecen 1; Dunaferr 4 Zalaegerszeg 1.
**Sep 28:** Zalaegerszeg 3 Haladas 1.
**Sep 29:** Gyor 2 Vasas 3; Ujpest 2 Videoton 0; Kispest-Honved 1 Dunaferr 1.
**Sep 30:** MTK 3 Ferencvaros 1; Debrecen 1 Matav 0.

**HUNGARY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MTK | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 7 | 28 |
| Ferencvaros | 11 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 19 | 11 | 21 |
| Zalaegerszeg | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 16 | 19 |
| Videoton | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 18 |
| Ujpest | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 25 | 18 | 17 |
| Debrecen | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 16 |
| Dunaferr | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 13 | 15 |
| Haladas | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 18 | 15 |
| Matav | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 17 | 19 | 13 |
| Kispest-Honved | 11 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 26 | 9 |
| Gyor | 11 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 7 |
| Vasas | 11 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 13 | 24 | 7 |

## ITALY

### Saturday, September 15

**Juventus 3** (Tacchinardi 22, 40, Salas pen 83)
**Chievo 2** (Marazzina 9, 20) Att: 40,455

### Sunday, September 16

**Bologna 1** (Cruz 59)
**Parma 0** Att: 17,945

**Brescia 1** (Baggio 90)
**Lecce 1** (Chevanton 13) Att: 13,031

**Fiorentina 3** (Nuno Gomes 2, Chiesa 12, 82)
**Atalanta 1** (Rinaldi 3) Att: 13,815

**Inter 2** (Kallon pen 75, Adriano 90)
**Venezia 1** (Maniero 89) Att: 52,129

**Lazio 0**
**Torino 0** Att: 38,686

**Piacenza 2** (Hubner 38, Di Francesco 51)
**Roma 0** Att: 9,965

**Udinese 1** (Muzzi pen 73)
**Milan 2** (Shevchenko 14, Inzaghi 54) Att: 17,402

**Verona 1** (Mutu 80)
**Perugia 1** (Liverani pen 42) Att: 13,887

### Saturday, September 22

**Lecce 0**
**Juventus 0** Att: 32,236

### Sunday, September 23

**Atalanta 1** (Doni 27)
**Verona 0** Att: 13,305

**Chievo 4** (Corini pen 13, 68, Manfredini 37, Perrotta 47)
**Piacenza 2** (Hubner 8, 87) Att: 6,393

**Milan 2** (Inzaghi 42, Laursen 50)
**Lazio 0** Att: 57,048

**Parma 1** (Nakata 87)
**Brescia 0** Att: 16,369

**Perugia 1** (Vryzas 20)
**Udinese 2** (Jorgensen 44, Pizarro 68) Att: 5,872

**Roma 2** (Totti pen 11, Panucci 87)
**Fiorentina 1** (Adani 8) Att: 50,000

**Torino 0**
**Inter 1** (Kallon pen 72) Att: 27,286

**Venezia 0**
**Bologna 1** (Zauli 90) Att: 6,513

### Saturday, September 29

**Juventus 0**
**Roma 2** (Batistuta 37, Assuncao 90) Att: 59,454

### Sunday, September 30

**Brescia 3** (Baggio 25, 75, Calori 90)
**Atalanta 3** (Sala 27, Doni 30, Comandini 45) Att: 14,423

**Fiorentina 3** (Chiesa 6, Nuno Gomes 67, 87)
**Venezia 1** (Maniero 84) Att: 13,882

**Inter 1** (Georgatos 24)
**Bologna 0** Att: 56,419

**Lazio 0**
**Parma 0** Att: 37,327

**Perugia 3** (Bazzani 57, Tedesco 75, Vryzas 79)
**Milan 1** (Kaladze 68) Att: 14,964

**Piacenza 3** (Hubner 9, pen 87, Gautieri 20)
**Torino 1** (Lucarelli 58) Att: 7,539

**Udinese 1** (Caballero 38)
**Chievo 2** (Perrotta 20, Eriberto 23) Att: 13,153

**Verona 2** (Gilardino 12, Gonnella 46)
**Lecce 1** (Vugrinec 42) Att: 14,269

**ITALY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inter | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 13 |
| Chievo | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 12 |
| Juventus | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 10 |
| Milan | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| Bologna | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Roma | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| Verona | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Piacenza | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| Brescia | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| Lecce | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Parma | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Fiorentina | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 6 |
| Udinese | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| Perugia | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| Lazio | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Atalanta | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| Torino | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| Venezia | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 0 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
5 Roberto Baggio (Brescia)
5 Enrico Chiesa (Fiorentina)
5 Dario Hubner (Piacenza)

## NORWAY

**Sep 15:** Odd Grenland 0 Rosenborg 1.
**Sep 16:** Bryne 2 Bodo/Glimt 1; Lillestrom 4 Viking 0; Lyn 0 Molde 2; Sogndal 3 Moss 1; Stabaek 2 Brann 1; Stromsgodset 0 Tromso 0.
**Sep 28:** Bodo/Glimt 5 Brann 1.
**Sep 30:** Bryne 1 Stromsgodset 1; Molde 1 Lillestrom 2; Moss 1 Odd Grenland 3; Rosenborg 1 Lyn 1; Tromso 2 Sogndal 3; Viking 1 Stabaek 1.

**NORWAY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rosenborg | 23 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 63 | 26 | 51 |
| Lillestrom | 22 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 55 | 27 | 49 |
| Viking | 23 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 40 | 26 | 45 |
| Molde | 23 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 52 | 37 | 40 |
| Stabaek | 23 | 12 | 3 | 8 | 42 | 37 | 39 |
| Brann | 23 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 58 | 41 | 38 |
| Odd Grenland | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 40 | 34 | 34 |
| Sogndal | 23 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 39 | 53 | 28 |
| Moss | 23 | 8 | 2 | 13 | 32 | 44 | 26 |
| Bodo/Glimt | 23 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 37 | 42 | 23 |
| Lyn | 23 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 36 | 42 | 23 |
| Stromsgodset | 23 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 35 | 63 | 18 |
| Bryne | 23 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 25 | 56 | 16 |
| Tromso | 23 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 20 | 46 | 15 |

## POLAND

### Group A

**Sep 12:** KSZO 2 Zaglebie 1.
**Sep 14:** Katowice 4 Odra 2.
**Sep 15:** Gornik 0 Polonia 0; Zaglebie 2 Widzew 0.
**Sep 16:** Wisla 0 KSZO 1.
**Sep 22:** KSZO 1 Gornik 2; Odra 3 Zaglebie 0; Widzew 2 Katowice 0.
**Sep 23:** Polonia 2 Wisla 0.
**Sep 28:** Gornik 1 Odra 3.
**Sep 29:** Zaglebie 4 KSZO 3.
**Sep 30:** Katowice 2 Polonia 0; Wisla 2 Widzew 0.

### Group B

**Sep 15:** Stomil 0 Ruch Chorzow 1; Pogon 2 RKS 1.
**Sep 16:** Groclin 1 Amica 1; Legia 3 Slask 4.
**Sep 22:** Slask 4 Groclin 3; Ruch Chorzow 3 Pogon 0; RKS 2 Stomil 0.
**Sep 23:** Amica 1 Legia 2.
**Sep 29:** Pogon 3 Amica 1; Stomil 3 Slask 1; Groclin 0 RKS 2.
**Sep 30:** Legia 1 Ruch Chorzow 1.

**POLAND – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wisla | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 10 | 19 |
| Odra | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 13 | 19 |
| Polonia | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 16 |
| Zaglebie | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Katowice | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 14 |
| KSZO | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| Gornik | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 9 |
| Widzew | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 18 | 9 |

**POLAND – GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amica | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 13 | 18 |
| Pogon | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 18 |
| Legia | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 12 | 17 |
| Slask | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 19 | 14 |
| RKS | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| Ruch Chorzow | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 12 |
| Groclin | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 17 | 11 |
| Stomil | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 19 | 8 |

*Top four from each group qualify for championship pool*

## PORTUGAL

### Friday, September 14

**Varzim 1** (Vinicius 69)
**Belenenses 5** (Filgueira 17, 27, 43, Neca 72, Tuck 83)

### Saturday, September 15

**Benfica 0**
**FC Porto 0**

**Boavista 1** (Frechaut 66)
**Uniao Leiria 0**

### Sunday, September 16

**Maritimo 5** (Bruno 2, Van der Gaag 46 58, Paulo Sergio 66, Arriola 87)
**Alverca 0**

**Pacos Ferreira 1** (Leonardo 85)
**Farense 1** (Ze Nando og 33)

**Salgueiros 1** (Basilio 90)
**Sporting Braga 0**

**Santa Clara 2** (Figueiredo 7, Glaedson 52)
**Guimaraes 0**

**Setubal 4** (Ico 19, Marco Ferreira 30, 54, Jorginho 64)
**Beira Mar 1** (Hugo 66)

**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Niculae 11, 58, Jardel pen 48)
**Gil Vicente 1** (Lemos 88)

### Friday, September 21

**Sporting Braga 6** (Ze Roberto 23, 49, Miran 70, 87, Barata 78, Tito 81)
**Santa Clara 0**

### Saturday, September 22

**Gil Vicente 0**
**Boavista 3** (Marcio 13, 17, 37)

**FC Porto 3** (Helder Postiga 57, Pena 61, Alenichev 68)
**Setubal 0**

### Sunday, September 23

**Alverca 4** (Quinzinho 31, Rui Borges 40, Anderson 70, Caju 87)
**Varzim 2** (Vinicius 30, Mendonca 90)

**Beira Mar 1** (Gamboa 11)
**Salgueiros 1** (Delson 3)

**Belenenses 1** (Marcao 68)
**Benfica 1** (Mantorras 54)

**Farense 1** (Carlos Costa 31)
**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Jardel pen 5, 88, 90)

**Guimaraes 1** (Nuno Assis 81)
**Pacos Ferreira 1** (Leonardo 35)

**Uniao Leiria 2** (Duah 29, Paulo Sergio og 85)
**Maritimo 0**

### Friday, September 28

**Setubal 0**
**Belenenses 1** (Neca 15)

### Saturday, September 29

**Beira Mar 2** (Cristiano 21, Luis Manuel 86)
**FC Porto 0**

**Pacos Ferreira 0**
**Sporting Braga 0**

### Sunday, September 30

**Benfica 3** (Paviot og 8, Julio Cesar 21, Drulovic 85)
**Alverca 2** (Anderson 10, 87)

**Boavista 1** (Frechaut 63)
**Farense 1** (Ferreira 58)

**Salgueiros 2** (Joao Pedro 20, Marco Claudio 88)
**Santa Clara 1** (Brandao 89)

**Varzim 2** (Mariano 71, Mendonca 88)
**Uniao Leiria 0**

### Monday, October 1

**Maritimo 2** (Kenedy 17, Joel Santos 46)
**Gil Vicente 1** (Sergio Lomba 75)

**Sporting Lisbon 5** (Joao Pinto 34, Niculae 45, Beto 57, Jardel 72, 75)
**Guimaraes 0**

### Sunday, October 7

**Santa Clara 0**
**Boavista 2** (Gouveia 44, Sanchez 55)

**PORTUGAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boavista | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 19 |
| FC Porto | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 13 |
| Sporting Lisbon | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 13 |
| Benfica | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 10 | 13 |
| Maritimo | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 12 |
| Belenenses | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 10 |
| Guimaraes | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 10 |
| Setubal | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 9 |
| Uniao Leiria | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 9 |
| Beira Mar | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 9 |
| Alverca | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 9 |
| Sporting Braga | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 8 |
| Gil Vicente | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 8 |
| Farense | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 8 |
| Santa Clara | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 8 |
| Pacos Ferreira | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Salgueiros | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| Varzim | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 5 |

**LEADING GOALSCORER**
7 Mario Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)

## ROMANIA

**Sep 15:** Petrolul 0 Gloria 1; Ceahlaul 0 U Craiova 1; UM Timisoara 1 Astra 1; Brasov 1 National 1; Rapid 1 Bacau 0; Otelul 0 Farul 0.
**Sep 16:** Arges 0 Steaua 4; Dinamo 5 Sportul 1.
**Sep 22:** U Craiova 2 Rapid 2; Arges 1 Otelul 0; National 3 Ceahlaul 1; Bacau 1 UM Timisoara 0; Sportul 0 Farul 3.
**Sep 23:** Gloria 1 Brasov 0; Steaua 4 Petrolul 1; Astra 1 Dinamo 1.
**Sep 28:** Otelul 4 Sportul 2.
**Sep 29:** Petrolul 1 Arges 1; Ceahlaul 4 Gloria 1; UM Timisoara 1 U Craiova 1; Farul 3 Astra 2.
**Sep 30:** Dinamo 4 Bacau 2; Brasov 3 Steaua 2; Rapid 0 National 0.

**ROMANIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rapid | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 6 | 18 |
| Steaua | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 9 | 16 |
| Gloria | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 16 |
| Dinamo | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 12 | 15 |
| National | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 13 |
| Farul | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 12 |
| U Craiova | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 12 |
| Brasov | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 12 |
| Otelul | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 11 |
| Astra | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| Sportul | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 9 |
| Bacau | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 8 |
| Ceahlaul | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 8 |
| Petrolul | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 8 |
| Arges | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 5 |
| UM Timisoara | 8 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 18 | 2 |

## RUSSIA

**Sep 15:** Lokomotiv M 3 CSKA 2.
**Sep 16:** Dinamo 2 Rotor 1; Fakel 4 Rostselmash 1; Saturn 1 Torpedo-ZIL 0; Torpedo M 3 Chernomorets 1; Anzhi 0 Zenit 0; Alaniya 2 Sokol 0.
**Sep 21:** Sokol 2 Spartak 4.
**Sep 22:** CSKA 0 Saturn 0; Torpedo-ZIL 3 Fakel 1; Rotor 3 Kryliya Sovetov 1.
**Sep 23:** Rostselmash 1 Dinamo 1; Chernomorets 1 Alaniya 0.
**Sep 30:** Alaniya 3 Spartak 3; Kryliya Sovetov 3 Rostselmash 0; Fakel 1 Saturn 0; Lokomotiv M 3 Sokol 0; Zenit 6 CSKA 1.
**Oct 1:** Anzhi 3 Chernomorets 1; Torpedo M 1 Rotor 1; Dinamo 2 Torpedo-ZIL 1.
**Oct 5:** Sokol 2 Anzhi 0.

**RUSSIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spartak | 25 | 14 | 8 | 3 | 46 | 23 | 50 |
| Lokomotiv M | 25 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 47 | 20 | 48 |
| Zenit | 25 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 46 | 30 | 46 |
| Kryliya Sovetov | 25 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 32 | 19 | 43 |
| Torpedo M | 25 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 44 | 34 | 42 |
| Saturn | 26 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 34 | 18 | 41 |
| CSKA | 26 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 29 | 25 | 38 |
| Sokol | 27 | 11 | 5 | 11 | 28 | 38 | 38 |
| Dinamo | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 33 | 39 | 32 |
| Anzhi | 26 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 25 | 27 | 31 |
| Rotor | 26 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 33 | 37 | 28 |
| Alaniya | 26 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 27 | 38 | 28 |
| Fakel | 26 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 25 | 39 | 25 |
| Rostselmash | 26 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 21 | 36 | 25 |
| Torpedo-ZIL | 26 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 18 | 33 | 24 |
| Chernomorets | 26 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 46 | 20 |

## SCOTLAND

### Saturday, September 15

**Aberdeen 2** (Winters pen 52, Zerouali 69)
**Dundee Utd 1** (McIntyre 46) Att: 12,948

**Dundee 0**
**Celtic 4** (Larsson 45, 60, Petrov 70, Maloney 88) Att: 9,842

**St Johnstone 2** (Falconer 16, MacDonald 50)
**Livingston 2** (Quino 25, Bingham 28)

### Sunday, September 16

**Hibernian 5** (Brewster 17, 32, McManus 44, Luna 73, 81)
**Dunfermline 1** (Crawford 40) Att: 11,035

**Kilmarnock 1** (Dargo 77)
**Hearts 0** Att: 7,564

**Rangers 3** (Flo 36, De Boer 69, Caniggia 90)
**Motherwell 0** Att: 47,137

### Saturday, September 22

**Celtic 2** (Larsson 65, Petrov 81)
**Aberdeen 0** Att: 59,197

**Dundee Utd 1** (McIntyre 34)
**Rangers 6** (Buchan og 2, Flo 50, 73, 81, De Boer 66, McCann 90) Att: 11,117

**Dunfermline 1** (Crawford 8)
**Livingston 2** (Bingham 74, Wilson 82) Att: 4,516

**Motherwell 2** (Kelly 38, Elliott 72)
**Hearts 0** Att: 4,808

### Sunday, September 23

**Hibernian 4** (Luna 25, Fenwick 57, Brebner 59, Smart 62)
**St Johnstone 0** Att: 6,102

**Kilmarnock 0**
**Dundee 1** (Rae 38) Att: 7,052

### Saturday, September 29

**Dundee 1** (Caballero 31)
**Aberdeen 4** (Zerouali 25, 49, 69, Mackie 81) Att: 8,359

**Hearts 1** (Simmons 70)
**Dundee Utd 2** (McIntyre 50, Thompson 90) Att: 11,034

**St Johnstone 2** (Connolly 12, MacDonald 54)
**Motherwell 3** (Nicholas 45, Elliott 80, Nicholas 90) Att: 3,269

### Sunday, September 30

**Dunfermline 0**
**Kilmarnock 2** (McLaren 28, Dargo 80) Att: 3,983

**Livingston 1** (Quino 64)
**Hibernian 0** Att: 10,016

**Rangers 0**
**Celtic 2** (Petrov 14, Thompson 90) Att: 50,097

**SCOTLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 2 | 25 |
| Rangers | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 8 | 18 |
| Livingston | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 16 |
| Hibernian | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 13 | 14 |
| Kilmarnock | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 14 |
| Aberdeen | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Dundee Utd | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 11 |
| Dundee | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 17 | 11 |
| Hearts | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 10 |
| Motherwell | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 9 |
| Dunfermline | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 22 | 6 |
| St Johnstone | 9 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 19 | 3 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
7 Tore Andre Flo (Rangers)
7 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)

## SPAIN

### Saturday, September 15

**Betis 3** (Gaston Casas 13, Capi 50, Joaquin 58)
**Real Madrid 1** (Zidane 14) Att: 50,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Diego Tristan 61)
**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Guerrero 35, Urzaiz 52) Att: 30,000

**Mallorca 0**
**Alaves 0** Att: 15,200

**Osasuna 0**
**Barcelona 0** Att: 14,881

### Sunday, September 16

**Espanyol 2** (Munteanu 21, De Lucas pen 47)
**Sevilla 3** (Reyes 15, Javi Casquero 54, Olivera 62) Att: 21,200

**Malaga 1** (Canabal 79)
**Valladolid 2** (Fernando pen 34, Tote 90) Att: 14,000

**Rayo Vallecano 1** (Bolo 32)
**Zaragoza 2** (Vellisca 57, Juanele 62) Att: 5,000

**Real Sociedad 0**
**Celta Vigo 0** Att: 13,809

**Tenerife 2** (Marioni pen 6, 48)
**Villarreal 0** Att: 10,000

**Valencia 1** (Albelda 61)
**Las Palmas 0** Att: 45,000

### Saturday, September 22

**Alaves 2** (Llorens 61, Coloccini 83)
**Deportivo La Coruna 3** (Amavisca 24, 48, Sergio 87) Att: 12,931

**Barcelona 2** (Geovanni 34, Saviola 90)
**Tenerife 0** Att: 45,000

**Las Palmas 0**
**Malaga 0** Att: 16,000

**Real Madrid 5** (Zidane 5, Roberto Carlos 11, Figo pen 20, Raul 59, McManaman 70)
**Espanyol 1** (De Lucas 46) Att: 60,000

**Villarreal 1** (Palermo 86)
**Real Sociedad 0** Att: 6,000

### Sunday, September 23

**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Etxeberria 63, Carlos Garcia 90)
**Valencia 2** (Ayala 43, Aimar 46) Att: 35,000

**Celta Vigo 2** (Edu 41, Catanha 84)
**Mallorca 0** Att: 25,000

**Sevilla 2** (Moises 65, Fredi 89)
**Rayo Vallecano 1** (Arteaga 19) Att: 32,000

**Valladolid 0**
**Betis 2** (Varela 52, Denilson 71) Att: 11,000

**Zaragoza 0**
**Osasuna 1** (Aguado og 39) Att: 22,000

### Saturday, September 29

**Espanyol 3** (Palencia 25, Velamazan 62, De Lucas 84)
**Rayo Vallecano 1** (Lopo og 77) Att: 16,000

**Malaga 1** (Musampa pen 90)
**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Guerrero 14, Etxeberria 81) Att: 13,000

**Real Madrid 2** (Zidane 5, Raul 20)
**Valladolid 2** (Fernando 6, Blanco 88) Att: 61,250

**Real Sociedad 0**
**Barcelona 2** (Kluivert 30, Xavi 78) Att: 29,000

### Sunday, September 30

**Betis 1** (Schurrer og 48)
**Las Palmas 0** Att: 35,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Juanfran og 69, Pandiani pen 81)
**Celta Vigo 2** (Berizzo 23, Edu 68) Att: 34,000

**Mallorca 0**
**Villarreal 1** (Palermo 13) Att: 18,000

**Osasuna 1** (Aloisi 75)
**Sevilla 0** Att: 16,670

**Tenerife 0**
**Zaragoza 0** Att: 14,500

**Valencia 0**
**Alaves 0** Att: 45,000

### Wednesday, October 3

**Alaves 1** (Llorens pen 54)
**Malaga 0** Att: 12,344

**Athletic Bilbao 0**
**Betis 0** Att: 35,000

**Barcelona 3** (Luis Enrique 9, 27, Saviola 32)
**Mallorca 0** Att: 75,000

**Las Palmas 4** (Pablo Lago 8, Jorge pen 34, Ruben 77, 90)
**Real Madrid 2** (Munitis 33, Zidane 41) Att: 22,000

**Rayo Vallecano 0**
**Osasuna 1** (Armentano 1) Att: 7,000

**Sevilla 2** (Reyes 20, Olivera pen 79)
**Tenerife 0** Att: 30,000

**Valladolid 0**
**Espanyol 1** (Posse 31) Att: 11,000

**Villarreal 1** (Victor 3)
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Donato 65) Att: 17,000

**Zaragoza 3** (Marcos Vales 22, Yordi 49, Vellisca 90)
**Real Sociedad 2** (Tayfun 17, Gabilondo 66) Att: 18,000

### Thursday, October 4

**Celta Vigo 1** (Maurice 47)
**Valencia 1** (Sanchez 8) Att: 16,000

### Saturday, October 6

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Fran 50, 68)
**Barcelona 1** (Kluivert 37) Att: 34,000

**Real Madrid 2** (Raul 47, Solari 72)
**Athletic Bilbao 0** Att: 60,000

### Sunday, October 7

**Betis 1** (Joao Tomas pen 81)
**Alaves 0** Att: 30,000

**Espanyol 1** (Tamudo 74)
**Osasuna 1** (Aloisi 87) Att: 25,000

**Malaga 2** (Musampa 7, Dely Valdes 46)
**Celta Vigo 2** (Jesuli 5, Karpin 10) Att: 12,000

**Mallorca 0**
**Zaragoza 1** (Yordi 80) Att: 15,900

**Real Sociedad 3** (Gabilondo 31, Demetradze 33, Luiz Alberto 79)
**Sevilla 3** (Moises 54, Olivera 66, Njegus 90) Att: 21,000

**Tenerife 3** (Ivan Ania 1, Jaime 54, Xisco 57)
**Rayo Vallecano 1** (Korino 6) Att: 10,000

**Valencia 1** (Salva 45)
**Villarreal 0** Att: 45,000

**Valladolid 1** (Turu Flores 6)
**Las Palmas 0** Att: 11,000

**SPAIN**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Betis | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 16 |
| Barcelona | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 14 |
| Dep La Coruna | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 8 | 14 |
| Celta Vigo | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 5 | 13 |
| Villarreal | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Valencia | 7 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 13 |
| Alaves | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Sevilla | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 11 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 11 |
| Zaragoza | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 11 |
| Osasuna | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Espanyol | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 10 |
| Real Madrid | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 8 |
| Valladolid | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 8 |
| Las Palmas | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| Tenerife | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 7 |
| Malaga | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 6 |
| Mallorca | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 4 |
| Real Sociedad | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 2 |
| Rayo Vallecano | 7 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 1 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
4 Enrique De Lucas (Espanyol)
4 Gaston Casas (Betis)
4 Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
4 Nicolas Olivera (Sevilla)
4 Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid)

## SWEDEN

**Sep 16:** Hacken 2 Orebro 6; Hammarby 1 Elfsborg 0; Trelleborgs 2 Sundsvall 3.
**Sep 17:** IFK Gothenburg 4 Malmo 0; Norrkoping 0 Orgryte 0.
**Sep 19:** Djurgardens 1 AIK 2.
**Sep 23:** Sundsvall 3 Norrkoping 0; Elfsborg 1 Helsingborgs 1.
**Sep 24:** Halmstads 5 Trelleborgs 2; Malmo 2 Hacken 2; Orebro 0 Hammarby 3; Orgryte 1 Djurgardens 1.
**Sep 25:** AIK 1 IFK Gothenburg 1.
**Sep 30:** Hacken 1 AIK 6; Trelleborgs 0 Helsingborgs 3; Orebro 4 Elfsborg 1.
**Oct 1:** Hammarby 4 Malmo 1; IFK Gothenburg 1 Orgryte 1; Norrkoping 0 Halmstads 3.
**Oct 2:** Djurgardens 1 Sundsvall 1.

**SWEDEN**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hammarby | 23 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 40 | 20 | 45 |
| IFK Gothenburg | 23 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 39 | 26 | 41 |
| Djurgardens | 23 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 30 | 22 | 40 |
| Halmstads | 22 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 47 | 26 | 36 |
| Helsingborgs | 22 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 41 | 25 | 36 |
| AIK | 23 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 36 | 26 | 36 |
| Orgryte | 23 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 31 | 30 | 33 |
| Orebro | 23 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 44 | 40 | 30 |
| Malmo | 23 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 35 | 40 | 29 |
| Elfsborg | 23 | 7 | 3 | 13 | 27 | 48 | 24 |
| Sundsvall | 23 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 25 | 35 | 23 |
| Norrkoping | 23 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 23 | 39 | 23 |
| Hacken | 23 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 31 | 45 | 20 |
| Trelleborgs | 23 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 25 | 52 | 14 |

## SWITZERLAND

**Sep 15:** Aarau 3 Lugano 1; St Gallen 4 Young Boys 1; Zurich 0 Sion 0.
**Sep 16:** Neuchatel Xamax 1 Grasshopper 4; Basle 4 Lucerne 1.
**Sep 17:** Lausanne 0 Servette 3.
**Sep 22:** Lugano 0 Young Boys 0; Basle 2 Sion 1; Neuchatel Xamax 4 Lucerne 1.
**Sep 23:** Lausanne 1 St Gallen 1; Aarau 1 Grasshopper 0; Zurich 0 Servette 3.
**Sep 26:** Basle 3 Lausanne 1.
**Sep 29:** Sion 0 Neuchatel Xamax 4; Young Boys 7 Lausanne 0.
**Sep 30:** Grasshopper 2 Lugano 5; St Gallen 3 Zurich 1.
**Oct 1:** Servette 1 Basle 4.

**SWITZERLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basle | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 29 | 23 | 23 |
| Young Boys | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 26 | 18 | 22 |
| Servette | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 15 | 21 |
| St Gallen | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 22 | 21 |
| Lugano | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 20 | 21 |
| Grasshopper | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Aarau | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 19 |
| Neuchatel Xamax | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 14 | 17 |
| Sion | 13 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 19 | 19 | 17 |
| Zurich | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 20 | 17 |
| Lausanne | 13 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 31 | 9 |
| Lucerne | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 33 | 5 |

## TURKEY

**Sep 14:** Besiktas 0 Istanbulspor 1.
**Sep 15:** Bursaspor 2 Diyarbakirspor 1; Fenerbahce 1 Yozgatspor 0; Malatyaspor 0 Galatasaray 2; Antalyaspor 1 Denizlispor 0.
**Sep 16:** Trabzonspor 1 Samsunspor 2; Gaziantepspor 0 Rizespor 2; Goztepe 2 Ankaragucu 1; Genclerbirligi 2 Kocaelispor 2.
**Sep 21:** Kocaelispor 2 Goztepe 0.
**Sep 22:** Bursaspor 2 Samsunspor 1; Galatasaray 2 Fenerbahce 0; Denizlispor 4 Malatyaspor 1.
**Sep 23:** Ankaragucu 3 Besiktas 4; Istanbulspor 2 Trabzonspor 1; Rizespor 1 Antalyaspor 1; Yozgatspor 0 Genclerbirligi 2.
**Sep 28:** Trabzonspor 2 Ankaragucu 2.
**Sep 29:** Fenerbahce 2 Denizlispor 1; Diyarbakirspor 1 Samsunspor 1; Malatyaspor 2 Rizespor 1.
**Sep 30:** Besiktas 4 Kocaelispor 2; Goztepe 0 Yozgatspor 0; Genclerbirligi 1 Galatasaray 3; Bursaspor 1 Istanbulspor 2; Gaziantepspor 2 Antalyaspor 3.

**TURKEY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Galatasaray | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 6 | 19 |
| Istanbulspor | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 19 |
| Goztepe | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 14 |
| Fenerbahce | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 8 | 13 |
| Kocaelispor | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 10 | 12 |
| Besiktas | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 10 |
| Trabzonspor | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 10 |
| Genclerbirligi | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 14 | 9 |
| Rizespor | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 8 |
| Yozgatspor | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 8 |
| Antalyaspor | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 19 | 8 |
| Ankaragucu | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 18 | 7 |
| Denizlispor | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 7 |
| Bursaspor | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 7 |
| Gaziantepspor | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| Diyarbakirspor | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 5 |
| Samsunspor | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 5 |
| Malatyaspor | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 3 |

## UKRAINE

**Sep 15:** Dynamo 4 Karpaty 1; Shakhtar 3 Metalurh D 1; Metalurh M 0 Metalist 0; Tavriya 0 Metalurh Z 1; Zakarpattya 2 Kryvbas 0; Poligraftekhnika 2 Vorskla 2.
**Sep 16:** Dnipro 2 CSKA 0.
**Sep 22:** Kryvbas 0 Dynamo 7; Metalist 4 Tavriya 1; Metalurh Z 0 Poligraftekhnika 0; Vorskla 1 Zakarpattya 0.
**Sep 23:** Karpaty 0 Shakhtar 2; Metalurh D 2 Dnipro 0; CSKA 3 Metalurh M 2.
**Sep 29:** Metalurh M 4 Metalurh D 2; Metalurh Z 1 Metalist 0; Poligraftekhnika 4 Zakarpattya 2.
**Sep 30:** Dynamo 1 Vorskla 0; Shakhtar 3 Kryvbas 0; Dnipro 0 Karpaty 1; Tavriya 1 CSKA 2.

**UKRAINE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shakhtar | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 6 | 25 |
| Dynamo | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 3 | 23 |
| Karpaty | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 14 | 21 |
| Metalurh D | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 10 | 18 |
| Metalurh Z | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| Metalist | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 17 |
| Dnipro | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 16 |
| Metalurh M | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 16 | 15 |
| Poligraftekhnika | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 16 | 14 |
| Kryvbas | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 12 |
| Tavriya | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 15 | 11 |
| CSKA | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 9 |
| Zakarpattya | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 28 | 9 |
| Vorskla | 11 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 15 | 5 |

## YUGOSLAVIA

**Sep 14:** Zeleznik 2 Zvezdara 0.
**Sep 15:** Mladost A 1 Mladost L 1; Hajduk K 2 Partizan 3; Zemun 1 Radnicki K 1; Rudar P 3 Sutjeska 0; Zeta 4 Obilic 3; Cukaricki 1 OFK 1; Red Star 2 Vojvodina 2; Rad 0 Sartid 0.
**Sep 21:** Zvezdara 1 Cukaricki 0; Sutjeska 1 Zeta 0.
**Sep 22:** Sartid 2 Mladost A 1; Radnicki K 1 Rudar P 0; Vojvodina 0 Rad 0; Mladost L 3 Hajduk K 2.
**Sep 23:** OFK 1 Red Star 1; Obilic 3 Zeleznik 1; Partizan 3 Zemun 0.
**Sep 28:** Rad 2 OFK 0.
**Sep 29:** Mladost A 2 Hajduk K 0; Zemun 4 Mladost L 0; Zeta 2 Radnicki K 1; Zeleznik 2 Sutjeska 1; Sartid 0 Vojvodina 2.
**Sep 30:** Rudar P 2 Partizan 2; Cukaricki 1 Obilic 3; Red Star 3 Zvezdara 1.

**YUGOSLAVIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partizan | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 8 | 14 |
| Sartid | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Rad | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Obilic | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 11 |
| Red Star | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| OFK | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Vojvodina | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Zeta | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 8 |
| Rudar P | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Zvezdara | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Zemun | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| Zeleznik | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Mladost L | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 7 |
| Sutjeska | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Radnicki K | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| Hajduk K | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 5 |
| Mladost A | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 5 |
| Cukaricki | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 2 |

# SOUTH AMERICA

## ARGENTINA

### Friday, September 14

**Gimnasia LP 3** (Sava pen 25, Herner 45, Enria 72)
**Velez Sarsfield 2** (F Dominguez 8, Fuentes 38)

### Saturday, September 15

**Colon Santa Fe 1** (Graf 12)
**Independiente 0**

**San Lorenzo 3** (Romeo 28, 33, Rodriguez 85)
**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Ponzio 63)

**Talleres Cordoba 3** (Cuba 16, 52, Roth 81)
**Huracan 3** (Moner 13, Morquio 37, Padra 90)

### Sunday, September 16

**Argentinos Juniors 0**
**Estudiantes 4** (Farias 25, 38, 48, pen 63)

**Chacarita Juniors 2** (Moreno 45, Quinteros 80)
**Banfield 0**

**Lanus 1** (Klimowicz pen 15)
**Nueva Chicago 1** (Herbella 74)

**Racing Club 0**
**Belgrano Cordoba 0**

**River Plate 1** (Cambiasso 18)
**Boca Juniors 1** (Gaitan 83)

**Rosario Central 1** (Rivarola 69)
**Union Santa Fe 0**

### Friday, September 21

**Independiente 3** (Guinazu 26, Forlan 54, Vuoso 56)
**Gimnasia LP 2** (Sava 45, 65)

### Saturday, September 22

**Belgrano Cordoba 1** (Meta 75)
**San Lorenzo 0**

**Velez Sarsfield 1** (Husain 33)
**Chacarita Juniors 2** (Romero 47, Rivero 75)

### Sunday, September 23

**Banfield 1** (Del Rio 80)
**River Plate 1** (Cavenaghi 8)

**Boca Juniors 6** (Delgado 22, 32, Gaitan 39, 56, Riquelme 52, Takahara 69)
**Lanus 1** (Klimowicz 42)

**Estudiantes 1** (Maggiolo 32)
**Rosario Central 0**

**Huracan 0**
**Racing Club 1** (Barros Schelotto 67)

**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Rodriguez 25)
**Colon Santa Fe 2** (Morant 31, Miglionico 71)

**Nueva Chicago 1** (Kmet 2)
**Argentinos Juniors 3** (Yaque 14, 53, Insua 75)

**Union Santa Fe 4** (Tilger 38, 66, 90, Basualdo 86)
**Talleres Cordoba 1** (Garay pen 75)

### Friday, September 28

**Huracan 2** (Morquio pen 20, 31)
**Union Santa Fe 2** (Capria 2, Zapata 67)

### Saturday, September 29

**Chacarita Juniors 1** (Moreno 53)
**Independiente 1** (Franco 90)

**Colon Santa Fe 1** (Miglionico pen 68)
**Belgrano Cordoba 1** (Castillo 45)

**Gimnasia LP 4** (Sava 21, 57, Messera 61, Enria 89)
**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Rodriguez 46)

**Lanus 1** (Pages 87)
**Banfield 0**

**Rosario Central 0**
**Nueva Chicago 2** (Mandra 40, Kmet 42)

### Sunday, September 30

**Argentinos Juniors 1** (Pena 22)
**Boca Juniors 3** (Barros Schelotto 34, 50, Delgado 78)

**Racing Club 4** (Loeschbor 41, Estevez 56, Bedoya 61, Maceratesi 77)
**San Lorenzo 1** (Pusineri 24)

**River Plate 4** (Cardetti 34, Escudero 76, Fuentes og 83, D'Alessandro 90)
**Velez Sarsfield 2** (Husain 10, Bujan 69)

**Talleres Cordoba 0**
**Estudiantes 1** (Maggiolo 13)

### Tuesday, October 2

**Nueva Chicago 3** (Mandra 35, 47, Valli 40)
**Talleres Cordoba 1** (Albornos 34)

**San Lorenzo 1** (Acosta 60)
**Colon Santa Fe 1** (Morant 40)

### Wednesday, October 3

**Banfield 1** (Forestello 82)
**Argentinos Juniors 1** (Insua 43)

**Belgrano Cordoba 0**
**Gimnasia LP 2** (Licht 35, Castillo 44)

**Boca Juniors 3** (Gaitan 17, Riquelme pen 69, Martinez 88)
**Rosario Central 1** (Arias 66)

**Estudiantes 2** (Quatrocchi 5, 74)
**Huracan 0**

**Independiente 0**
**River Plate 5** (D'Alessandro 15, Marchesini og 20, Cardetti pen 62, 75, Cambiasso 79)

**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Rodriguez 60)
**Chacarita Juniors 1** (Carrario 12)

**Union Santa Fe 0**
**Racing Club 2** (Estevez 67, Bedoya 90)

**Velez Sarsfield 1** (Nanni 88)
**Lanus 1** (Klimowicz pen 26)

**ARGENTINA – OPENING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Racing Club | 9 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 4 | 23 |
| River Plate | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 9 | 18 |
| Gimnasia LP | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 12 | 18 |
| Colon Santa Fe | 9 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 8 | 17 |
| Lanus | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 17 |
| Belgrano Cordoba | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 17 |
| Chacarita Jnrs | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 10 | 16 |
| Argentinos Jnrs | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 16 |
| Boca Juniors | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 11 | 15 |
| San Lorenzo | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 15 |
| Estudiantes | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Rosario Central | 9 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 12 |
| Independiente | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Nueva Chicago | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 11 |
| Newell's OB | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 8 |
| Union Santa Fe | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 15 | 6 |
| Velez Sarsfield | 9 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 20 | 3 |
| Banfield | 9 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 18 | 3 |
| Huracan | 9 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 23 | 3 |
| Talleres Cordoba | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 22 | 1 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
8 Facundo Sava (Gimnasia LP)
7 Esteban Cambiasso (River Plate)
7 Diego Klimowicz (Lanus)

## BOLIVIA

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sep 9:** Guabira 1 Iberoamericana 0; Independiente 3 Blooming 1; Mariscal Braun 2 Santa Cruz 0; Oriente 3 Real Potosi 1; The Strongest 3 Union Central 2; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Bolivar 3.
**Sep 12:** Blooming 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Iberoamericana 0 The Strongest 0; Real Potosi 5 Guabira 0; Union Central 1 Oriente 1.
**Sep 13:** Bolivar 3 Mariscal Braun 1; Santa Cruz 5 Independiente 2.
**Sep 16:** Guabira 0 Santa Cruz 0; Independiente 0 Real Potosi 0; Oriente 2 Blooming 0; The Strongest 3 Bolivar 3.
**Sep 19:** Mariscal Braun 3 Iberoamericana 2.
**Sep 20:** Jorge Wilstermann 2 Union Central 1.
**Sep 22:** Bolivar 4 Santa Cruz 0.
**Sep 23:** Guabira 0 The Strongest 2; Mariscal Braun 3 Blooming 2; Oriente 5 Iberoamericana 1; Real Potosi 3 Union Central 0; Jorge Wilstermann 4 Independiente 2.
**Sep 26:** Blooming 2 Bolivar 1; Iberoamericana 3 Real Potosi 1; Independiente 2 Mariscal Braun 1; Santa Cruz 2 Jorge Wilstermann 0.
**Sep 27:** The Strongest 2 Oriente 1.
**Sep 28:** Union Central 1 Guabira 1.

**BOLIVIA: CLOSING – GROUP 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bolivar | 12 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 32 | 16 | 25 |
| J Wilstermann | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 19 | 18 |
| Mariscal Braun | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 22 | 15 |
| Santa Cruz | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 15 |
| Independiente | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 24 | 14 |
| Blooming | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 15 | 20 | 13 |

**BOLIVIA: CLOSING – GROUP 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Strongest | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 26 | 12 | 23 |
| Real Potosi | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 28 | 22 | 20 |
| Oriente | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 22 | 16 | 16 |
| Guabira | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 22 | 16 |
| Iberoamericana | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 23 | 15 |
| Union Central | 12 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 31 | 6 |

*Top four from each group qualify for second stage*

## BRAZIL

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**Aug 29:** Corinthians 2 Gama 2; America MG 1 Vasco da Gama 1; Atletico Paranaense 1 Santos 1; Internacional 2 Botafogo SP 0; Santa Cruz 1 Atletico Mineiro 1; Vitoria 1 Palmeiras 3; Ponte Preta 3 Gremio 2; Goias 2 Fluminense 0; Sao Caetano 4 Parana 1; Juventude 3 Sao Paulo 3; Botafogo (Rio) 3 Sport Recife 1.
**Aug 30:** Flamengo 0 Coritiba 1; Portuguesa 1 Guarani 2; Cruzeiro 1 Bahia 1.
**Sep 1:** Fluminense 2 Juventude 1; Palmeiras 2 Atletico Paranaense 0; Parana 3 Internacional 0; Atletico Mineiro 3 Sport Recife 0.
**Sep 2:** Santa Cruz 2 Flamengo 1; America MG 4 Corinthians 4; Vasco da Gama 2 Botafogo SP 2; Sao Paulo 0 Bahia 1; Coritiba 2 Botafogo (Rio) 3; Gremio 1 Guarani 0; Vitoria 2 Cruzeiro 2; Gama 0 Portuguesa 1; Santos 1 Goias 2; Ponte Preta 3 Sao Caetano 6.
**Sep 6:** Flamengo 2 Santos 0; Sao Caetano 1 Palmeiras 0.
**Sep 8:** Botafogo (Rio) 0 Parana 2; Corinthians 3 Coritiba 2; Cruzeiro 4 Santa Cruz 1.
**Sep 9:** Atletico Paranaense 1 Fluminense 2; Goias 2 Sao Paulo 3; Flamengo 1 America MG 1; Internacional 2 Ponte Preta 2; Sport Recife 3 Vasco da Gama 3; Bahia 4 Atletico Mineiro 0; Guarani 1 Santos 1; Botafogo SP 0 Palmeiras 1; Sao Caetano 3 Gama 2; Juventude 1 Gremio 2; Portuguesa 3 Vitoria 2.
**Sep 15:** Fluminense 2 Ponte Preta 0; Sao Paulo 1 Parana 3; Guarani 2 Cruzeiro 0; Vitoria 2 Internacional 0.
**Sep 16:** Palmeiras 3 Sport Recife 0; Goias 2 Corinthians 3; Juventude 1 Flamengo 1; Vasco da Gama 0 Bahia 1; Atletico Mineiro 2 Gama 1; Atletico Paranaense 3 Portuguesa 1; Gremio 2 Coritiba 0; Santa Cruz 0 Sao Caetano 1; Botafogo SP 0 Botafogo (Rio) 2; Santos 3 America MG 0.
**Sep 19:** Botafogo (Rio) 0 Guarani 2; Corinthians 2 Santa Cruz 2; Cruzeiro 1 Goias 2; Parana 2 Vasco da Gama 0; Internacional 4 Atletico Paranaense 4; Sport Recife 0 Santos 2; Ponte Preta 4 Atletico MG 3; Gama 1 Palmeiras 1; Sao Caetano 0 Botafogo SP 1.
**Sep 20:** Bahia 1 Gremio 1; Flamengo 1 Vitoria 1; Portuguesa 1 Juventude 2; America MG 1 Fluminense 0; Coritiba 0 Sao Paulo 1.
**Sep 22:** Vasco da Gama 2 Goias 1; Palmeiras 0 Ponte Preta 2; Gama 1 Cruzeiro 1.
**Sep 23:** Atletico Paranaense 3 Corinthians 2; Guarani 1 Flamengo 3; Fluminense 3 Coritiba 1; Sao Paulo 4 America MG 1; Atletico Mineiro 4 Parana 0; Internacional 2 Sport Recife 0; Santa Cruz 0 Portuguesa 0; Vitoria 3 Botafogo (Rio) 1; Botafogo SP 1 Gremio 2; Santos 5 Bahia 1; Juventude 0 Sao Caetano 3.
**Sep 29:** Botafogo (Rio) 1 Atletico Paranaense 3; Parana 1 Santos 0; Portuguesa 1 Botafogo SP 0; America MG 0 Internacional 2.
**Sep 30:** Flamengo 1 Gama 2; Corinthians 0 Guarani 3; Cruzeiro 3 Juventude 0; Coritiba 4 Palmeiras 1; Bahia 1 Fluminense 1; Ponte Preta 2 Vasco da Gama 2; Sport Recife 1 Sao Paulo 0; Goias 1 Atletico Mineiro 2; Sao Caetano 0 Vitoria 2.
**Oct 2:** Portuguesa 3 Internacional 0; Parana 1 America MG 2.
**Oct 3:** Vasco da Gama 3 Cruzeiro 0; Corinthians 4 Palmeiras 2; Atletico Mineiro 4 Botafogo (Rio) 0; Coritiba 1 Juventude 1; Gremio 1 Fluminense 1; Santa Cruz 1 Atletico Paranaense 5; Vitoria 1 Sport Recife 0; Ponte Preta 1 Gama 1; Botafogo SP 1 Guarani 1; Goias 3 Bahia 0; Santos 1 Sao Paulo 0.
**Oct 6:** Vasco da Gama 5 Flamengo 1; Corinthians 3 Portuguesa 1; Botafogo (Rio) 1 Fluminense 2; Sao

Paulo 0 Palmeiras 1; Cruzeiro 2 Atletico Mineiro 2; America MG 1 Ponte Preta 4; Atletico Paranaense 1 Parana 1; Gremio 1 Internacional 0; Sport Recife 1 Coritiba 1; Guarani 1 Goias 0; Gama 1 Vitoria 1; Santos 1 Sao Caetano 2; Juventude 0 Botafogo SP 2; Bahia 2 Santa Cruz 1.
**Oct 9:** America MG 2 Gama 0.
**Oct 10:** Botafogo (Rio) 2 Flamengo 2; Cruzeiro 1 Corinthians 0; Coritiba 0 Botafogo SP 0; Internacional 2 Vasco da Gama 0; Santa Cruz 3 Parana 2; Vitoria 4 Guarani 1; Ponte Preta 1 Atletico Paranaense 5; Goias 2 Sport Recife 3; Sao Caetano 2 Portuguesa 0; Juventude 2 Bahia 2; Palmeiras 2 Santos 1.
**Oct 11:** Sao Paulo 1 Gremio 1; Fluminense 3 Atletico Mineiro 2.

**BRAZIL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Palmeiras | 18 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 32 | 23 | 35 |
| Sao Caetano | 17 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 27 | 17 | 34 |
| At Mineiro | 17 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 37 | 19 | 33 |
| Fluminense | 17 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 29 | 20 | 33 |
| At Paranaense | 17 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 36 | 23 | 31 |
| Internacional | 17 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 27 |
| Vitoria | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 20 | 27 |
| Ponte Preta | 17 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 31 | 33 | 27 |
| Gremio | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 20 | 16 | 26 |
| Parana | 17 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 24 | 24 | 25 |
| Sao Paulo | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 27 | 21 | 25 |
| Bahia | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 25 | 24 | 25 |
| Santos | 18 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 24 | 17 | 25 |
| Goias | 17 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 23 | 20 | 23 |
| Portuguesa | 17 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 20 | 23 |
| Corinthians | 17 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 32 | 32 | 23 |
| Vasco da Gama | 17 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 31 | 20 | 22 |
| Cruzeiro | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 23 | 24 | 20 |
| Coritiba | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 24 | 20 |
| Botafogo (Rio) | 17 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 22 | 28 | 19 |
| Guarani | 17 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 30 | 19 |
| Flamengo | 17 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 17 |
| America MG | 17 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 29 | 17 |
| Juventude | 17 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 27 | 17 |
| Sport Recife | 17 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 16 | 30 | 15 |
| Gama | 17 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 17 | 23 | 15 |
| Santa Cruz | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 20 | 34 | 14 |
| Botafogo SP | 17 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 25 | 13 |

*Top eight qualify for knockout stages*

## CHILE

**Sep 8:** Dep Concepcion 0 Cobreloa 0; Coquimbo Unido 0 San Felipe 0; O'Higgins 1 Union Espanola 2; U Catolica 4 Puerto Montt 0; Santiago Morning 2 Palestino 3.
**Sep 9:** Santiago Wanderers 4 Huachipato 2; Audax Italiano 2 Rangers 1; Colo Colo 2 U de Chile 3.
**Sep 15:** Palestino 0 Colo Colo 2; San Felipe 2 Dep Concepcion 0; Huachipato 1 U Catolica 1; Puerto Montt 0 O'Higgins 2.
**Sep 16:** Union Espanola 1 Coquimbo Unido 0; Rangers 1 Santiago Wanderers 1; Cobreloa 5 Santiago Morning 0; U de Chile 1 Audax Italiano 0.
**Sep 22-23:** Colo Colo 1 Cobreloa 0; O'Higgins 0 Coquimbo Unido 1; Audax Italiano 1 Palestino 2; U Catolica 3 Rangers 1; Puerto Montt 0 Huachipato 3; Santiago Wanderers 4 U de Chile 1; Dep Concepcion 5 Union Espanola 2; Santiago Morning 1 San Felipe 1.
**Sep 29-30:** Palestino 1 Santiago Wanderers 2; U de Chile 0 U Catolica 1; Coquimbo Unido 2 Dep Concepcion 2; Union Espanola 0 Santiago Morning 3; Cobreloa 1 Audax Italiano 0; Huachipato 2 O'Higgins 1; Rangers 2 Puerto Montt 0; San Felipe 2 Colo Colo 2.

**CHILE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sant Wanderers | 22 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 42 | 26 | 42 |
| U Catolica | 22 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 43 | 22 | 41 |
| U de Chile | 22 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 39 | 25 | 41 |
| Cobreloa | 22 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 32 | 16 | 40 |
| Colo Colo | 22 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 40 | 25 | 40 |
| Palestino | 22 | 11 | 3 | 8 | 29 | 31 | 36 |
| San Felipe | 22 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 33 | 26 | 32 |
| Huachipato | 22 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 41 | 31 | 31 |
| Dep Concepcion | 22 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 31 | 30 | 30 |
| Coquimbo Unido | 22 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 22 | 25 | 30 |
| Union Espanola | 22 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 36 | 46 | 30 |
| Rangers | 22 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 28 | 30 | 23 |
| Audax Italiano | 22 | 7 | 1 | 14 | 19 | 29 | 22 |
| O'Higgins | 22 | 5 | 2 | 15 | 26 | 50 | 17 |
| Sant Morning | 22 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 29 | 48 | 16 |
| Puerto Montt | 22 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 19 | 49 | 14 |

## COLOMBIA

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Aug 29:** At Junior 0 Indep Medellin 0.
**Sep 2:** At Huila 0 Millonarios 2; Indep Santa Fe 0 Dep Pasto 1; Tulua 3 Dep Cali 2; America 2 Tolima 1; At Nacional 0 Pereira 0; Bucaramanga 2 Indep Medellin 1; Real Cartagena 1 Envigado 1; Once Caldas 2 At Junior 0.
**Sep 6:** America 0 Tulua 0; Indep Medellin 4 At Nacional 3.
**Sep 9:** Millonarios 3 Indep Santa Fe 1; Envigado 2 Bucaramanga 1; Dep Pasto 1 America 0; At Junior 0 At Nacional 0; Dep Cali 0 At Huila 1; Tolima 2 Tulua 2; Pereira 2 Real Cartagena 1; Indep Medellin 1 Once Caldas 1.
**Sep 13:** Dep Cali 1 Bucaramanga 0; Real Cartagena 2 Dep Pasto 2; At Nacional 2 Tolima 0; Tulua 1 At Junior 2; Envigado 1 America 2; Millonarios 1 Once Caldas 1; Pereira 1 Indep Santa Fe 0; At Huila 1 Indep Medellin 0.
**Sep 16:** Indep Santa Fe 2 Millonarios 2; Dep Pasto 1 Dep Cali 1; Indep Medellin 2 Real Cartagena 0; America 4 Tulua 2; At Junior 2 Tolima 3; At Huila 1 At Nacional 0; Bucaramanga 0 Pereira 1; Once Caldas 5 Envigado 1.
**Sep 19:** At Nacional 1 At Junior 0; Tolima 1 America 0; Tulua 0 Once Caldas 0; Envigado 2 Indep Santa Fe 0; Millonarios 3 Bucaramanga 1; Pereira 1 Dep Pasto 2; Dep Cali 1 Indep Medellin 0; Real Cartagena 1 At Huila 0.
**Sep 23:** Real Cartagena 2 At Nacional 2; At Huila 1 Dep Cali 1; Indep Medellin 3 Pereira 2; Dep Pasto 1 Millonarios 0; Bucaramanga 2 Envigado 3; Indep Santa Fe 1 Tulua 0; Once Caldas 4 Tolima 0; America 2 At Junior 4.
**Sep 29:** Millonarios 2 Indep Medellin 0; Tulua 1 Bucaramanga 0.
**Sep 30:** Dep Cali 2 Real Cartagena 1; At Junior 1 Once Caldas 1; Pereira 3 At Huila 1; Tolima 3 Indep Santa Fe 1; At Nacional 0 America 0; Envigado 3 Dep Pasto 4.

**COLOMBIA – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Once Caldas | 12 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 28 | 8 | 28 |
| Dep Pasto | 12 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 12 | 25 |
| Millonarios | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 14 | 21 |
| Dep Cali | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 14 | 21 |
| Indep Medellin | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 18 |
| Tolima | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Envigado | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 23 | 17 |
| At Nacional | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 17 |
| At Huila | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 16 |
| Indep Santa Fe | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 17 | 14 |
| Pereira | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 14 |
| At Junior | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| America | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 12 |
| Tulua | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 19 | 10 |
| Real Cartagena | 12 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 9 |
| Bucaramanga | 12 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 16 | 6 |

## ECUADOR

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sep 12:** Emelec 1 Espoli 0; Olmedo 0 Barcelona 1.
**Sep 13:** Dep Quito 2 Delfin 1; El Nacional 1 Macara 1; LDU Portoviejo 3 Aucas 1.
**Sep 16:** El Nacional 5 Dep Quito 2; Aucas 0 Emelec 0; Macara 4 LDU Portoviejo 0; Delfin 1 Olmedo 3; Barcelona 1 Espoli 1.
**Sep 19:** Olmedo 1 Dep Quito 3; Espoli 2 El Nacional 2; Aucas 0 Macara 2; Delfin 0 Barcelona 0.
**Sep 21:** Emelec 2 LDU Portoviejo 0.
**Sep 23:** El Nacional 1 Espoli 1; Dep Quito 2 Olmedo 1; Macara 1 Aucas 0; Barcelona 2 Delfin 0; LDU Portoviejo 1 Emelec 2.
**Sep 26:** Espoli 1 Barcelona 2; Dep Quito 1 El Nacional 1; LDU Portoviejo 2 Macara 2; Olmedo 7 Delfin 0.
**Sep 28:** Emelec 3 Aucas 0.

**ECUADOR – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Emelec | 11 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 9 | 22 |
| Barcelona | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 7 | 22 |
| Dep Quito | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 17 | 20 |
| Macara | 11 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 11 | 19 |
| Olmedo | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 8 | 18 |
| El Nacional | 11 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 13 | 17 |
| Espoli | 11 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 12 |
| Aucas | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 11 |
| LDU Portoviejo | 11 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 30 | 5 |
| Delfin | 11 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 29 | 4 |

## PARAGUAY

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

#### League stage

**Sep 14:** San Lorenzo 1 Sportivo Luqueno 1.
**Sep 16:** Cerro Porteno 2 Olimpia 3; Libertad 3 12 de Octubre 1; Colegiales 0 Sol de America 0; Guarani 0 Cerro Cora 1.
**Sep 22:** 12 de Octubre 1 Cerro Porteno 0.
**Sep 23:** Sportivo Luqueno 0 Libertad 3; Olimpia 0 Colegiales 1; Sol de America 1 Guarani 2; San Lorenzo 2 Cerro Cora 1.
**Sep 29:** Cerro Porteno 0 Sportivo Luqueno 0.
**Sep 30:** Colegiales 1 12 de Octubre 2; Cerro Cora 4 Sol de America 2; Libertad 3 San Lorenzo 0; Guarani 2 Olimpia 1.

**PARAGUAY: CLOSING – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cerro Porteno | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 7 | 17 |
| Libertad | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| 12 de Octubre | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 16 |
| Cerro Cora | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 14 | 14 |
| San Lorenzo | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| Sportivo Luqueno | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Guarani | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 10 |
| Sol de America | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 16 | 9 |
| Colegiales | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 9 |
| Olimpia | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 7 |

*Top eight qualify for knockout stages*

## PERU

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sep 8:** Sport Boys 2 Universitario 2; Sporting Cristal 1 Dep Wanka 0; Alianza Lima 0 Melgar 1.
**Sep 9:** Alianza Atletico 3 Juan Aurich 1; Union Minas 1 Estudiantes 3; Coopsol Trujillo 4 Cienciano 0.
**Sep 15:** Coopsol Trujillo 0 Alianza Lima 0.
**Sep 16:** Melgar 0 Sporting Cristal 3; Universitario 5 Juan Aurich 2; Estudiantes 2 Sport Boys 1; Cienciano 2 Union Minas 1; Dep Wanka 1 Alianza Atletico 0.
**Sep 22:** Sport Boys 4 Dep Wanka 1.
**Sep 23:** Alianza Lima 1 Alianza Atletico 2; Cienciano 1 Universitario 0; Juan Aurich 0 Sporting Cristal 1; Estudiantes 1 Coopsol Trujillo 0; Union Minas 1 Melgar 1.
**Sep 26:** Alianza Atletico 0 Coopsol Trujillo 0; Juan Aurich 4 Union Minas 2; Dep Wanka 0 Estudiantes 2; Melgar 1 Cienciano 2.
**Sep 29:** Coopsol Trujillo 0 Dep Wanka 0; Sport Boys 2 Alianza Atletico 0; Universitario 2 Melgar 0.
**Sep 30:** Cienciano 2 Juan Aurich 0; Estudiantes 2 Alianza Lima 2; Union Minas 1 Sporting Cristal 3.
**Oct 3:** Sporting Cristal 1 Universitario 0; Alianza Lima 2 Sport Boys 0.

**PERU – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sporting Cristal | 11 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 6 | 27 |
| Cienciano | 11 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 17 | 24 |
| Estudiantes | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 13 | 20 |
| Melgar | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 12 | 19 |
| Sport Boys | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 12 | 19 |
| Universitario | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 11 | 17 |
| Alianza Atletico | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 13 | 13 |
| Alianza Lima | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 15 | 11 |
| Dep Wanka | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 11 |
| Coopsol Trujillo | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 10 |
| Union Minas | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 10 |
| Juan Aurich | 11 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 19 | 8 |

## URUGUAY

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Sep 15-16:** Danubio 2 Wanderers 1; Fenix 1 Nacional 1; Defensor 3 Bella Vista M 1; Tacuarembo 3 Bella Vista P 0; Juventud 1 Penarol 0.
**Sep 19:** Juventud 2 Bella Vista M 1; Nacional 4 Danubio 0; Bella Vista P 4 Defensor 0.
**Sep 20:** Wanderers 1 Tacuarembo 0; Penarol 3 Fenix 2.
**Sep 22:** Bella Vista P 1 Nacional 1.
**Sep 23:** Defensor 2 Penarol 3; Wanderers 1 Juventud 1; Bella Vista M 2 Danubio 3; Tacuarembo 0 Fenix 1.
**Sep 26:** Danubio 5 Bella Vista P 0; Fenix 2 Defensor 0; Bella Vista M 1 Wanderers 4; Juventud 0 Nacional 1.
**Sep 29:** Danubio 0 Defensor 1; Penarol 1 Bella Vista M 0.
**Sep 30:** Fenix 0 Wanderers 0; Juventud 2 Bella Vista P 2; Nacional 2 Tacuarembo 1.

**URUGUAY – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nacional | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 11 |
| Danubio | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 9 |
| Penarol | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| Wanderers | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| Fenix | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Juventud | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| Defensor | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| Bella Vista P | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 5 |
| Tacuarembo | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Bella Vista M | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 0 |

# CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

## MEXICO

### WINTER LEAGUE

**Sep 12:** America 1 Cruz Azul 2; Santos 1 Pumas UNAM 0.
**Sep 15:** Tigres 3 Cruz Azul 2; Atlante 2 Toluca 2; Puebla 1 Guadalajara 1; Tecos UAG 1 Atletico Celaya 1; America 1 Leon 2.
**Sep 16:** Atletico Morelia 0 Necaxa 1; Pachuca 2 Pumas UNAM 0; Irapuato 6 La Piedad 1; Santos 5 Monterrey 0.
**Sep 22:** Toluca 3 Atletico Morelia 1; Monterrey 2 Atlante 2; Cruz Azul 2 Irapuato 3; Necaxa 0 America 1; Atletico Celaya 1 Santos 3.
**Sep 23:** Pumas UNAM 1 Tigres 0; Guadalajara 1 Tecos UAG 0; Leon 1 Pachuca 1; La Piedad 2 Atlas 4.
**Sep 26:** Cruz Azul 0 Santos 0.
**Sep 29:** Atletico Morelia 2 Monterrey 0; Tigres 1 Leon 0; Atlante 2 Atletico Celaya 1; America 3 Toluca 1; Puebla 1 Tecos UAG 1; Atlas 0 Cruz Azul 0.
**Sep 30:** Pachuca 2 Necaxa 2; Irapuato 0 Pumas UNAM 0; Santos 0 Guadalajara 1.

**GROUP 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guadalajara | 11 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 17 | 11 | 21 |
| Cruz Azul | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 17 | 16 |
| Atlas | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 14 |
| Monterrey | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 21 | 10 |
| At Celaya | 11 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 22 | 7 |

**GROUP 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Toluca | 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 21 | 13 | 20 |
| Santos | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 24 | 19 | 17 |
| At Morelia | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 16 | 13 |
| Irapuato | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 15 | 11 |
| La Piedad | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 17 | 26 | 8 |

**GROUP 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlante | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 13 | 17 |
| Necaxa | 11 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 12 | 11 | 14 |
| America | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 13 |
| Tecos UAG | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 10 |
| Leon | 11 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 18 | 9 |

**GROUP 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pachuca | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 18 |
| Tigres | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 16 |
| Puebla | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 14 |
| Pumas UNAM | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 10 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**

8 Jared Borgetti (Santos)
8 Martin Rodriguez (Irapuato)
7 Jose Manuel Abundis (Atlante)
7 Jose Luis Calderon (Atlas)

## UNITED STATES

*The final 10 regular season games were cancelled following the terrorist attacks on the country on September 11.*

**EASTERN DIVISION – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami Fusion | 26 | 16 | 5 | 5 | 57 | 36 | 53 |
| MetroStars | 26 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 38 | 35 | 42 |
| New England | 27 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 35 | 52 | 27 |
| DC United | 26 | 8 | 2 | 16 | 42 | 50 | 26 |

**CENTRAL DIVISION – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago Fire | 27 | 16 | 5 | 6 | 50 | 30 | 53 |
| Columbus Crew | 26 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 49 | 36 | 45 |
| Dallas Burn | 26 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 48 | 47 | 35 |
| Tampa Bay | 27 | 4 | 2 | 21 | 32 | 68 | 14 |

**WESTERN DIVISION – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LA Galaxy | 26 | 14 | 5 | 7 | 52 | 36 | 47 |
| San Jose | 26 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 47 | 29 | 45 |
| Kansas City | 27 | 11 | 3 | 13 | 33 | 53 | 36 |
| Colorado Rapids | 26 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 36 | 47 | 23 |

*Top two from each division plus the two third-placed sides with most points qualified for the quarter-finals*

### Quarter-finals

(best of three)

**Sep 20:** Chicago Fire 2 Dallas Burn 0.
**Sep 23:** Dallas Burn 1 Chicago Fire 1.
**Sep 29:** Chicago Fire 2 Dallas Burn 0.
*Chicago won series 2-0*

**Sep 22:** Columbus Crew 1 San Jose Earthquakes 3.
**Sep 26:** San Jose Earthquakes 3 Columbus Crew 0.
*San Jose won series 2-0*

**Sep 22:** Miami Fusion 2 Kansas City Wizards 0.
**Sep 26:** Kansas City Wizards 3 Miami Fusion 0.
**Sep 29:** Miami Fusion 2 Kansas City Wizards 1.
*Miami won series 2-1*

**Sep 23:** Los Angeles Galaxy 1 MetroStars 1.
**Sep 26:** MetroStars 4 Los Angeles Galaxy 1.
**Sep 29:** Los Angeles Galaxy 3 MetroStars 2.
*Series drawn 1-1. Los Angeles qualified by scoring first in the special extra-time period played after the third leg*

**TOP GOALSCORERS***

19 Alex Pineda Chacon (Miami Fusion)
15 Diego Serna (Miami Fusion)
14 John Spencer (Colorado Rapids)
14 Abdul Thompson Conteh (DC United)
**Regular season only*

# AFRICA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Quarter-final groups

**Group A**

**Sep 22:** Esperance (Tun) 3 Julius Berger (Nig) 2.
**Sep 23:** Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf) 1 TP Mazembe (DRC) 0.
**Oct 6:** Esperance 0 Mamelodi Sundowns 0.
**Oct 7:** Julius Berger 1 TP Mazembe 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Esperance* | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| Julius Berger | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Mam Sundowns | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| TP Mazembe | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 |

**Group B**

**Sep 21:** Al Ahly (Egy) 2 ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 1.
**Sep 23:** Petro Atletico (Ang) 2 Chabab Belouizdad (Alg) 1.
**Oct 5:** Al Ahly 2 Petro Atletico 4.
**Oct 7:** ASEC Abidjan 7 Chabab Belouizdad 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Petro Atletico* | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 12 |
| Al Ahly | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| ASEC Abidjan | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 5 | 7 |
| Chabab Bel | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 1 |

*Top two from each group qualify for semi-finals*
**Already qualified*

## CUP-WINNERS CUP

### Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

**Sep 21:** Club Africain (Tun) 3 Zamalek (Egy) 1 *Club Africain 3-2 on agg.*
**Sep 23:** Inter Luanda (Ang) 4 Niger Tornadoes (Nig) 0 *Inter Luanda 4-1 on agg*; Ismaili (Egy) 1 Kaizer Chiefs (SAf) 1 *Agg 1-1. Kaizer Chiefs on away goals.*
**Sep 24:** Kumbo Strikers (Cam) 2 Evico (Gab) 0 *Kumbo Strikers 3-0 on agg.*

## CAF CUP

### Quarter-finals, 1st legs

**Sep 16:** Etoile Sahel (Tun) 2 Ajax Cape Town (SAf) 0.

### Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

**Sep 23:** Africa Sports (IvC) 2 Goldfields (Gha) 0 *Africa Sports 2-0 on agg*; Ajax Cape Town 0 Etoile Sahel 1 *Etoile 3-0 on agg*; Cotonsport (Cam) 1 Ferroviario (Moz) 0 *Cotonsport 3-2 on agg*; JS Kabylie (Alg) 1 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 0 *JS Kabylie 3-0 on agg.*

# ASIA

## JAPAN

### SECOND STAGE

**Sep 1:** Jubilo Iwata 3 Shimizu S-Pulse 1.
**Sep 8:** Shimizu S-Pulse 3 Yokohama F Marinos 0; Vissel Kobe 2 Kashima Antlers 3 (aet); Consadole Sapporo 3 Avispa Fukuoka 4 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 5 Cerezo Osaka 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 4; Gamba Osaka 1 FC Tokyo 2; JEF United Ichihara 2 Urawa Reds 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Jubilo Iwata 2 (aet).
**Sep 15:** Consadole Sapporo 3 Shimizu S-Pulse 2 (aet); Jubilo Iwata 2 Urawa Reds 1 (aet); Yokohama F Marinos 1 Tokyo Verdy 1969 2; Kashima Antlers 3 JEF United Ichihara 1; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Gamba Osaka 1; FC Tokyo 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2; Cerezo Osaka 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Vissel Kobe 0 (aet).
**Sep 22:** JEF United Ichihara 2 FC Tokyo 2 (aet); Urawa Reds 1 Kashima Antlers 2 (aet); Shimizu S-Pulse 4 Cerezo Osaka 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Jubilo Iwata 0; Gamba Osaka 0 Consadole Sapporo 0 (aet); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 0 Avispa Fukuoka 3; Vissel Kobe 1 Kashiwa Reysol 1 (aet).
**Sep 29:** Consadole Sapporo 5 Vissel Kobe 2; Kashima Antlers 4 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Yokohama F Marinos 1 JEF United Ichihara 1 (aet); Shimizu S-Pulse 4 Gamba Osaka 2; FC Tokyo 3 Urawa Reds 2; Kashiwa Reysol 1 Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 (aet); Cerezo Osaka 0 Jubilo Iwata 1; Avispa Fukuoka 0 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 4.

**JAPAN – SECOND STAGE**

| | P | W1 | W2 | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kashima Antlers | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 9 | 19 |
| Jubilo Iwata | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| FC Tokyo | 7 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 13 | 14 |
| Sanfrecce H | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 12 | 12 |
| Grampus Eight | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 14 | 12 |
| Shimizu S-Pulse | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 12 | 11 |
| JEF United | 7 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Kashiwa Reysol | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 9 |
| Avispa Fukuoka | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 9 |
| Vissel Kobe | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 8 |
| Yokohama FM | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| Gamba Osaka | 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 7 |
| Tokyo Verdy 1969 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 7 |
| Consadole Sapp | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 16 | 18 | 6 |
| Urawa Reds | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 3 |
| Cerezo Osaka | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 24 | 0 |

*W1 = win in 90mins – 3pts; W2 = win in extra time – 2pts; Draw = 1pt*

# RECENT TRANSFERS

| | POS | FROM | TO |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arsim ABAZI | D | Vardar Skopje | Malatyaspor |
| Sebastian ABREU | F | San Lorenzo (Arg) | Nacional (Uru) |
| Joaquin AGOSTINHO | M | Malaga | Paris Saint-Germain (loan) |
| Shota ARVELADZE | F | Ajax | Rangers |
| Fabio BAZZANI | F | Venezia | Perugia (loan) |
| Ali BENARBIA | M | Paris Saint-Germain | Manchester City |
| Emanuele BERRETTONI | F | Lazio | Perugia |
| Oliver BIERHOFF | F | Milan | Monaco |
| Mate BILIC | F | Hajduk Split | Zaragoza |
| Jonatan BINOTTO | M | Internazionale | Chievo (loan) |
| Nathan BLAKE | F | Blackburn | Wolves |
| Laurent BLANC | D | Internazionale | Manchester United |
| Colin CAMERON | F | Hearts | Wolves |
| Eric CARRIERE | M | Nantes | Lyon |
| Benoit CAUET | M | Internazionale | Torino |
| Jurgen CAVENS | F | Standard Liege | Marseille (loan) |
| Aliou CISSE | D | Paris Saint-Germain | Montpellier (loan) |
| Francesco COCO | D | Milan | Barcelona |
| Leonardo CUFRE | D | Gimnasia y Esgrima LP | Roma |
| Nick CULKIN | G | Manchester United | Livingston (loan) |
| DEDE | D | Vicenza | Vasco da Gama (loan) |
| Vikash DHORASOO | M | Lyon | Bordeaux (loan) |
| Christian DIAZ | D | Udinese | Mallorca |
| DIDA | G | Milan | Corinthians (loan) |
| DILL | F | Marseille | Servette |
| Sylvain DISTIN | D | Paris Saint-Germain | Newcastle (loan) |
| Matias DONNET | M | Union Santa Fe | Venezia |
| Jerzy DUDEK | G | Feyenoord | Liverpool |
| Tomislav ERCEG | F | Kocaelispor | Hajduk Split |
| EWERTHON | M | Corinthians | Borussia Dortmund |
| Esteban FUERTES | F | Lens | Tenerife (loan) |
| Luciano GALLETTI | F | Estudiantes de La Plata | Zaragoza |
| Josep GUARDIOLA | M | Barcelona | Brescia |
| Johannes Karl GUDJONSSON | M | RKC Waalwijk | Betis |
| Michael HERBERT | G | Paris Saint-Germain | Celtic |
| Pavel HORVATH | M | Sporting Lisbon | Galatasaray |
| Don HUTCHISON | M | Sunderland | West Ham |
| Pierre ISSA | D | Marseille | Watford |
| Mario JARDEL | F | Galatasaray | Sporting Lisbon |
| Nils-Eric JOHANSSON | D | Nurnberg | Blackburn |
| Allan JOHNSTON | M | Rangers | Middlesbrough |
| Christopher KANU | F | Ajax | Alaves (loan) |
| Yoshikatsu KAWAGUCHI | G | Yokohama F Marinos | Portsmouth |
| Chris KIRKLAND | G | Coventry | Liverpool |
| Vitalii KUTUZOV | F | BATE Borisov | Milan |
| Sylvain LEGWINSKI | M | Bordeaux | Fulham |
| Fabio LIVERANI | M | Perugia | Lazio |
| Pegguy LUYINDULA | F | Strasbourg | Lyon |
| Gregory MALICKI | G | Rennes | Lille (loan) |
| MARCAO | F | Mirassol | St Pauli |
| Marijo MARIC | F | Bochum | Karnten |
| Steve MARLET | F | Lyon | Fulham |
| Billy McKINLAY | M | Bradford | Bolton |
| Mbo MPENZA | F | Sporting Lisbon | Galatasaray |
| Lucas NEILL | M | Millwall | Blackburn |
| Bruno N'GOTTY | D | Marseille | Bolton (loan) |
| Christian PANUCCI | D | Monaco | Roma (loan) |
| Sixto PERALTA | M | Internazionale | Ipswich (loan) |
| Gerhard POSCHNER | F | Rayo Vallecano | Rapid Wien |
| Franck QUEUDRUE | D | Lens | Middlesbrough (loan) |
| William QUEVEDO | M | Boavista | Sochaux |
| Tomas REPKA | D | Fiorentina | West Ham |
| Dean RICHARDS | D | Southampton | Tottenham |
| SILVINHO | D | Arsenal | Celta Vigo |
| Marco SIMONE | F | Monaco | Milan |
| Robert SPEHAR | F | Sporting Lisbon | Galatasaray |
| Jaap STAM | D | Manchester United | Lazio |
| Stathis TAVLARIDIS | D | Iraklis | Arsenal |
| Djimi TRAORE | D | Liverpool | Lens (loan) |
| TURU FLORES | F | Dep La Coruna | Valladolid |
| UMIT Davala | M | Galatasaray | Milan |
| Rod WALLACE | F | Rangers | Bolton |
| Zanko ZVETANOV | M | Energie Cottbus | Levski Sofia |

# Triumph for Les Petits Bleus

France, inspired by Le Havre's Liverpool-bound duo of Florent Sinama Pongolle and Anthony Le Tallec, have won another world title. Paul Gardner reports

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO may have been the smallest country yet to stage a full FIFA world tournament, but it proved itself a big-hearted, lively and ebullient host for the Under-17 World Championship.

Even when torrential rain saturated the fans and dampened the opening ceremonies, Prime Minister Badeo Panday found a positive note, remarking that "even the gods in heaven are applauding the commencement of these games".

Not even the disappointing failure of their own team – beaten 2-1 by Croatia in the opening game – could quell the exuberance of the Trinidad fans, whose music, singing and dancing was an abiding feature of the tournament.

Croatia had played without imagination, winning on the strength of two penalty kicks, but coach Martin Noveselac promised that "in the future we will show our full potential".

T&T had looked livelier, with midfielder Nkosi Blackman scoring the goal of the tournament. Coach Rene Simoes also promised that his team would do better.

Neither did and both were eliminated. From Group A it was Brazil and Australia (the teams that had met in the previous Under-17 Final, in New Zealand in 1999) that advanced to the second round.

Over in Tobago, Group B got under way with the biggest shock of the tournament: Japan 1 USA 0. Bad news indeed for the USA, which had spent some £1.3million preparing its team with a full-time, year-round residency programme. Their next two games were against France and Nigeria, both strong candidates to take the title. The USA duly lost both games and took the early trip home – a disappointing performance from the country that had taken fourth place in New Zealand.

Despite having lost three key players to injuries before the tournament, Nigeria won their three group games comfortably – including a morale-boosting 2-1 victory over France.

Final showdown...French defender Jacques Faty holds off Nigeria's Karimu Shaibu

The French recovered quickly from the defeat, beating both the USA and Japan and scoring 10 goals in the process. Forward Florent Sinama Pongolle struck a hat-trick in each game.

In Group C, Argentina came out on top, with Burkina Faso in second place. Argentina's 4-2 win over Spain meant early elimination for the European champions.

Costa Rica were the surprise winners of Group D, while Mali's second-place finish meant that Africa was the only continent to send all three of its entrants to the second round.

Having topped their group, Nigeria avoided a quarter-final clash with the holders, Brazil; instead, they made short work of Australia with a 5-1 win, three of the goals coming from one of the team's last-minute replacements, Femi Opabunmi. It was France who took on Brazil and ran out 2-1 winners with another goal from Sinama Pongolle, plus one from the powerful Anthony Le Tallec – both products of Le Havre's youth system, both already signed by Liverpool.

Burkina Faso got two unanswered second-half goals to overcome Costa Rica in a rather uneventful game. It had been preceded by the most exciting of the quarter-finals, an end-to-end, highly skilful battle between Mali and Argentina, with Argentina's Maximiliano Lopez the outstanding player – a forward who has already played with River Plate's first team. Locked at 1-1 after full time, it took a golden goal six minutes into extra time from substitute Mauro Fanari to decide the game.

Argentina's reward was a semi-final against the increasingly rampant France – with the French having had an extra day's rest.

After Argentina had taken the lead through Carlos Tevez, France settled matters with two headed goals in two minutes – Le Tallec got the first, defender Jeremie Berthod the second.

In the other, all-African, semi-final Nigeria faced Burkina Faso, the team they had comfortably beaten 3-0 to win the African championship. Nigeria opened the scoring with an Opabunmi penalty after only four minutes. After that, the game was a knife-edge affair with both teams wasting good scoring opportunities.

Nigeria – just – made their one goal stand up for the win.

The third-place game saw a smooth, almost faultless performance from Burkina Faso as they cruised to a 2-0 win over a listless Argentina. The Argentinians were without the suspended Lopez, but coach Hugo Tocalli refused to use his absence as an excuse: "We didn't lose because we didn't have Lopez. We lost the match because we didn't play well."

In the Final, before a crowd of over 20,000 in Port-of-Spain's Hasely Crawford stadium, the French put on a classy display that never allowed the Nigerians to control the game at any point.

The power and the speed and the slick passing that had been the most impressive part of Nigeria's play were shut down, particularly in the first half, when Nigerian passes were repeatedly picked off by the French defenders and midfielders.

Sinama Pongolle opened the scoring after 34 minutes with a minor masterpiece of a goal – a quick shimmy in the penalty area to wrong-foot a defender, then the perfect shot, hard, low, just wide of the goalkeeper's dive, just clipping the inside of the post.

After the break, Le Tallec rocketed in the second goal, and substitute Samuel Pietre got the third for a comprehensive 3-0 win. Thus France became the first European team to win the title since 1987, when the Soviet Union eked out a penalty-kick win – over Nigeria.

Nigeria coach Musa Abdullahi felt his team's first-round win over France had made them over-confident. "My players went into the game with the wrong attitude," he said.

For the France coach, Jean Francois Jodar, it was all about tactics, not attitudes. A change in his team's formation, from its usual 3-5-2 to a 4-4-2, produced a zonal defence that shut out the Nigerians – who had scored 14 goals in the previous five games.

France's win underlined the success of the country's youth development programme. Sinama Pongolle was voted the tournament's outstanding player, with Le Tallec taking second place. Sinama Pongolle also set a new record with his nine goals.

For Sinama Pongolle and Le Tallec, however, there loomed a disturbing precedent: none of the previous winners of the tournament's individual awards, dating back to 1985, has ever gone on to become a major star in the sport.

## RESULTS

### Group A

13.09.01 ..Croatia-Trinidad & Tobago .....2-1
14.09.01 ..Australia-Brazil .....0-1
16.09.01 ..Croatia-Brazil.....1-3
16.09.01 ..Trinidad & Tobago-Australia.....0-1
19.09.01 ..Australia-Croatia.....4-0
19.09.01 ..Brazil-Trinidad & Tobago.....6-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BRAZIL | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 9 |
| AUSTRALIA | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Croatia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| Trinidad & Tob | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 0 |

### Group B

14.09.01 ..USA-Japan.....0-1
14.09.01 ..France-Nigeria .....1-2
16.09.01 ..Japan-Nigeria .....0-4
16.09.01 ..USA-France.....3-5
19.09.01 ..Nigeria-USA.....2-0
19.09.01 ..France-Japan .....5-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NIGERIA | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| FRANCE | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 6 | 6 |
| Japan | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| USA | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 0 |

### Group C

15.09.01 ..Oman-Spain.....1-2
15.09.01 ..Burkina Faso-Argentina.....2-2
17.09.01 ..Spain-Burkina Faso .....0-1
17.09.01 ..Oman-Argentina .....0-3
20.09.01 ..Argentina-Spain.....4-2
20.09.01 ..Burkina Faso-Oman .....1-1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ARGENTINA | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| BURKINA FASO | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Spain | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Oman | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 |

### Group D

15.09.01 ..Mali-Paraguay .....1-2
15.09.01 ..Iran-Costa Rica .....0-2
17.09.01 ..Paraguay-Costa Rica .....0-3
17.09.01 ..Mali-Iran.....1-0
20.09.01 ..Mali-Costa Rica.....2-0
20.09.01 ..Paraguay-Iran .....3-2

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COSTA RICA | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| MALI | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Paraguay | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Iran | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 |

### Quarter-finals

23.09.01 ..Brazil-France.....1-2
23.09.01 ..Nigeria-Australia.....5-1
24.09.01 ..Argentina-Mali.....(aet) 2-1
24.09.01 ..Costa Rica-Burkina Faso.....0-2

### Semi-finals

27.09.01 ..Nigeria-Burkina Faso.....1-0
27.09.01 ..Argentina-France .....1-2

### 3rd-place play-off

30.09.01 ..Argentina-Burkina Faso.....0-2

### Final

30.09.01 ..Nigeria-France .....0-3

## SQUADS

### ARGENTINA

1 Walter MOLINA (G, Independiente)
2 Walter GARCIA (D, Argentina Juniors)
3 Hernan MATTIUZZO (M, San Lorenzo)
4 Gonzalo RODRIGUEZ (D, San Lorenzo)
5 Hugo COLACE (M, Argentina Juniors)
6 Ruben SALINA (D, Independiente)
7 Maximiliano LOPEZ (F, River Plate)
8 Javier MASCHERANO (M, River Plate)
9 Carlos TEVEZ (F, Boca Juniors)
10 Lucas CORREA (M, Rosario Central)
11 Mauro FANARI (F, Independiente)
12 Rubens SAMBUEZA (M, River Plate)
13 Matias ARGUELLO (D, River Plate)
14 Raul GOROSTEGUI (D, Velez Sarsfield)
15 Raul OSELLA (D, Boca Juniors)
16 Pablo ZABALETA (M, San Lorenzo)
17 Marcos AGUIRRE (F, Lanus)
18 Santiago ABETE (G, San Lorenzo)

### AUSTRALIA

1 Nathan COE (G, Aus. Institute of Sport)
2 Alex WILKINSON (D, Northern Spirit)
3 Matthew HUNTER (D, Northern Spirit)
4 Predrag BOJIC (D, Parramatta Power)
5 Spase DILEVSKI (D, PSV Eindhoven, Hol)
6 Adam VAN DOMMELE (M, SASI Pirates)
7 Brett STUDMAN (D, NSWIS Sapphires)
8 Darren BROXTON (D, Southampton, Eng)
9 Carl VALERI (M, Aus. Institute of Sport)
10 Anthony DANZE (M, Aus. Institute of Sport)
11 Fred AGIUS (M, Sydney Olympic)
12 Ben STEVENS (F, QAS Sting)
13 Sean WALSH (F, Aus. Institute of Sport)
14 Brett HOLMAN (F, Parramatta Power)
15 Jay LUCAS (F, Southampton, Eng)
16 Matthew ENGELE (F, Aus. Institute of Sport)
17 Terry SMITH (F, Aus. Institute of Sport)
18 Jacob REX (G, Northern Spirit)

### BRAZIL

1 FELIPE (G, Vitoria)
2 VINICIUS (D, Palmeiras)
3 WENDEL (D, Corinthians)
4 WESCLEY (D, Vasco da Gama)
5 ALCEU (M, Palmeiras)
6 FERNANDES (D, Botafogo)
7 CAETANO (F, Sao Paulo)
8 LEANDRO (M, Vitoria)
9 BRUNO (F, Santos)
10 DIEGO (M, Santos)
11 ALBERONI (M, Vasco da Gama)
12 THIAGO (D, Atletico Mineiro)
13 MARCELO MATOS (M, Mirassol)
14 RODOLFO (M, Fluminense)
15 JUNIOR (M, Flamengo)
16 ANDERSON (F, Vasco da Gama)
17 MALZONI (F, Curitiba)
18 MARCELO (G, Corinthians)

### BURKINA FASO

1 Abdoul KONTOUGOMDE (G, Kadre)
2 Lassana KANOUTE (D, Jeunesse Club Bodo)
3 Hamidou KERE (M, Santos)
4 Zephirin SORE (M, Santos)
5 Ousmane DABRE (D, Olympic Nahour)
6 Ayissoudou BOUYAIN (D, Planete Champion)
7 Amadou COULIBALY (D, Racing Club Bobo)
8 Madi PANANDETIGUIRI (M, Bordeaux, Fra)
9 Henoch CONOMBO (F, Planete Champion)
10 Abdoul Aziz NIKIEMA (M, Bordeaux, Fra)
11 Wilfried SANOU (F, Wattens, Aut)
12 Abdoulaye OUEDRAOGO (F, ASF Bodo)
13 Boureima OUATTARA (F, ASF Bodo)
14 Karim BAMBA (M, ASF Bodo)
15 Oumarou OUEDRAOGO (M, Planete Champion)
16 Wally Said KORABOU (F, Olympic Nahouri)
17 Paul GOROGO (M, Santos)
18 Aboubacar FOFANA (G, Racing Club Bobo)

### COSTA RICA

1 Marco HERRERA (G, Liberia)
2 Eduardo GOMEZ (D, Liberia)
3 Gabriel BADILLA (D, Saprissa)
4 Roger ESTRADA (D, Alajuelense)
5 Saul PHILLIPS (M, Alajuelense)
6 Carlos JOHNSON (D, Liberia)
7 Paolo JIMENEZ (M, Cartago)
8 Randall AZOFEIFA (F, Saprissa)
9 Gilberto SALAS (F, Alajuelense)
10 Cristian BOLANOS (M, Saprissa)
11 Kraesher MOOKE (F, Envaco)
12 Roy MILLER (F, Liberia)

13 Armando ALONSO (F, Alajuelense)
14 Diego MEJIAS (D, Cartago)
15 Jason ZUNIGA (M, Liberia)
16 Gustavo GALLO (M, Santos)
17 Gustavo PEREZ (F, Guanacaste)
18 Pablo QUESADA (G, Alajuelense)

## CROATIA

1 Dario KRESIC (G, VfB Stuttgart, Ger)
2 Drago PAPA (M, Dinamo Zagreb)
3 Hrvoje CALE (M, Dinamo Zagreb)
4 Domagoj SKEJA (D, Dinamo Zagreb)
5 Silvio CAVRIC (D, Istra Pula)
6 Marko BASIC (D, Dinamo Zagreb)
7 Dejan PRIJIC (M, Osije)
8 Mario GRGUROVIC (M, Hajduk Split)
9 Igor RUZAK (F, Osijek)
10 Niko KRANJCAR (F, Dinamo Zagreb)
11 Ivan GRIVICIC (F, Hajduk Split)
12 Igor LOZO (D, Hajduk Split)
13 Ahmad SHARBINI (F, Rijeka)
14 Tomislav LUKASEK (F, Osijek)
15 Leonardo BARNJAK (F, Dinamo Zagreb)
16 Kruno JAMBRUSIC (M, Slaven Belupo)
17 Asmir ORASCANIN (D, Dinamo Zagreb)
18 Denis PINTARIC (G, Osijek)

## FRANCE

1 Florent CHAIGNEAU (G, Rennes)
2 Kevin DEBRIS (D, Le Havre)
3 Jeremie BERTHOD (D, Lyon)
4 Julio COLOMBO (D, Montpellier)
5 Jacques FATY (D, Rennes)
6 Gael MAIA (M, Bordeaux)
7 Anthony LE TALLEC (F, Le Havre)
8 Hassan YEBDA (M, Auxerre)
9 Florent SINAMA PONGOLLE (F, Le Havre)
10 Mourad MEGHNI (M, Bologna, Ita)
11 Chaouki BEN SAADA (F, Bastia)
12 Emmers FAE (M, Nantes)
13 Stephen DROUIN (D, Nantes)
14 Laurent MOHELLEBI (D, Monaco)
15 Kevin JACMOT (F, Lyon)
16 Samuel PIETRE (M, Paris St-Germain)
17 Luigi GLOMBARD (F, Nantes)
18 Mickael FABRE (G, Bologna, Ita)

## IRAN

1 Hassan HORI (G, Foolad Khouzestan)
2 Gemal ABBASI (D, Perspolis)
3 Ali ALEI (D, Shahrdari Tabriz)
4 Shic REZAEI (D, No club)
5 Seyed MIRTOROUGHI (D, Malavan)
6 Amin ASHORIZADE (D, Malavan)
7 Amir AMINIFAR (M, Esteghlal)
8 Siavash AKBARPOUR (F, Fajr Sepasi)
9 Saeid ASADOLLAHI (F, Bank Meli)
10 Mohammad HAMRANG (M, Malavan)
11 Mansour AHMADZADEH (M, Esteghlal)
12 Mohammad HASANVAND (D, No club)
13 Hossein KABEI (M, Foolad Khouzestan)
14 Mohsen ARZANI (D, Bank Meli)
15 Hassan BAVIFARD (M, Foolad Ahvaz)
16 Vahid SHARGHI (F, Choka Talesh)
17 Ehsan RASTI (D, Bargh Shiraz)
18 Seyed MIRTABATABAEI (G, Esteghlal)

## JAPAN

1 Kenta TOKUSHIGE (G, Kunimi High School)
2 Ryota AOKI (D, Ichiritsu Funabashi High School)
3 Kentaro OI (D, Fujieda Higashi High School)
4 Masatomo KUBA (M, Toko Gakuen High School)
5 Tadayo FUKUO (D, Cerezo Osaka)
6 Shingo NEJIME (M, Tokyo Verdy 1969)
7 Naoya KIKUCHI (M, Shimizu Shogyo High School)
8 Sho NARUOKA (M, Fujieda Higashi High School)
9 Hiroto MOGI (F, Seiko Gakuen High School)
10 Kohei KUDO (M, JEF Utd Ichihara)
11 Yutaro ABE (F, Toin Gakuen High School)
12 Hisanori OGAWA (D, Avispa Fukuoka)
13 Sho KITANO (F, Yokohama F Marinos)
14 Kiyohiro HIRABAYASHI (M, Nagoya Grampus Eight)
15 Kisho YANO (F, Hamana Highschool)
16 Jungo FUJIMOTO (M, Toko Gakuen High School)
17 Junichi TAKAYAMA (D, Shimizu S-Pulse)
18 Atsushi KIMURA (G, Gamba Osaka)
19 Kota SUGIYAMA (M, Shimizu S-Pulse)
20 Tomoya OSAWA (M, Teikyo Highschool)

## MALI

1 Mamadou TRAORE (G, Onze Createurs)
2 Moussa BAGAYOKO (D, Djoliba)
3 Daouda BAGAYOKO (M, AS Damazon)
4 Boucader DIALLO (D, Stade Malien)
5 Fako KEITA (M, Stade Malien)
6 Alhassane TOURE (D, Djoliba)
7 Lassana DIALLO (F, Djoliba)
8 Mamoutou COULIBALY (F, Centre Salif Keita)
9 Karim TOUNKARA (F, Djoliba)
10 Alain TRAORE (F, Stade Malien)
11 Souleymane DEMBELE (F, Stade Malien)
12 Sidi KEITA (M, Djoliba)
13 Bakary COULIBALY (D, Djoliba)
14 Modibo CISSE (D, Centre Salif Keita)
15 Drissa DIAKITE (D, Djoliba)
16 Baba BALAYIRA (M, Stade Malien)
17 Drissa DIARRA (M, Lecce, Ita)
18 Boubacar KEITA (G, AS N'tomi)

## NIGERIA

1 Osaze UWELUYI (G, Igbino Babes)
2 Kennedy CHINWO (D, Michelin)
3 Ndala IBRAHIM (D, Wikki Tourists)
4 Emmanuel BABA (D, Jigawa Golden Stars)
5 Joseph EYIMOFE (M, NPA Warri)
6 Richard EROMOIGBE (F, NPA Warri)
7 Karimu SHAIBU (F, Insurance)
8 Austine NNAMDI (F, NPA Warri)
9 Moses AYUBA (M, Alausa Kaduna)
10 Victor BROWN (F, Jasper Utd)
11 Femi OPABUNMI (M, Ibadan)
12 Ifeanyi UGO (D, Relaxers)
13 Soga SAMBO (D, Highlanders)
14 Kazeem BABATUNDE (M, Julius Berger)
15 Cyril GONA (D, Plateau Utd)
16 Omonigho TEMILE (M, Delta Utd)
17 Suleiman MOHAMMED (D, Nasara)
18 Akpan BASSEY (G, Bayelsa Utd)

## OMAN

1 Ali AL AJMI (G, Sohar)
2 Muaz AL ALAWI (D, Al Talia)
3 Sami AL SAADI (D, Suwaiq)
4 Haifar AL BULUSHI (D, Oman)
5 Ismail AL AJMI (F, Khaboura)
6 Mohamed AL HINAI (D, Oman)
7 Khalid AL SHIKAIRI (D, Oman)
8 Hafeedh AL IBRAHIM (M, Al Hilal)
9 Hassan AL MAGHNI (F, Al Nasr, Kuw)
10 Ahmed AL MUKHAINI (M, Al Talia)
11 Sulaiman AL SHIKAIRI (D, Oman)
12 Hani SABTI (G, Zofar)
13 Yasser AL ARAIMI (D, Al Oruba)
14 Ahmed AL MARZOQ (M, Zofar)
15 Khalifa AL NAUFLI (M, Oman)
16 Hasan AL MUKHAINI (M, Al Oruba)
17 Nabil AL BULUSHI (M, Al Ahli)
18 Sulaiman AL JADEEDI (G, Rustaq)

## PARAGUAY

1 Marco ALMEDA (G, Cerro Porteno)
2 Cesar AVALOS (D, Cerro Cora)
3 Victor MARECO (D, Olimpia)
4 Ernesto CRISTALDO (D, Cerro Porteno)
5 Jorge ROMERO (D, Sol de America)
7 Edgar BARRETO (M, Cerro Porteno)
8 Victorino PERALTA (M, Sportivo Luqueno)
9 Aldo JARA (F, Cerro Porteno)
10 Andres PEREZ (M, Olimpia)
11 Blas LOPEZ (M, E. Ayala)
12 Armando BRITEZ (M, Sol de America)
13 Raul MEZA (D, Cerro Porteno)
14 Anggello MACHUCA (M, Olimpia)
15 Willian ARZAMENDIA (M, Tacuray)
16 Derlis FLORENTIN (F, Humaita)
17 Ariel BERNAL (F, Union de Lamas, Por)
18 Anthony SILVA (G, Cerro Cora)
19 Diego AGUERO (F, Independiente)

## SPAIN

1 ZAPA (G, Real Zaragoza)
2 JESUS (D, Real Madrid)
3 TARANTINO (D, Athletic Bilbao)
4 CARLOS GARCIA (D, Espanyol)
5 MIGUEL FLANO (D, Osasuna)
6 BERTO (M, Racing Santander)
7 GUILLERMO (M, Mallorca)
8 INIESTA (M, Barcelona)
9 SENEL (F, Celta Vigo)
10 DIEGO LEON (M, Real Madrid)
11 SERGIO TORRES (F, Atletico Madrid)
12 PALENCIA (D, Real Madrid)
13 MELLI (D, Betis Sevilla)
14 FERNANDO TORRES (M, Atletico Madrid)
15 GAVILAN (M, Valencia)
16 LARREA (F, Real Sociedad)
17 PEPE (F, Deportivo La Coruna)
18 MOYA (G, Mallorca)

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1 Marvin PHILLIP (G, Presentation College)
2 Julius JAMES (D, St Anthony)
3 Lee HAYNES (D, St Benedicts's College)
4 Devon BRISTOL (D, Carapichaima Secondary)
5 Terrence McALLISTER (M, El Dorado Senior)
6 Kenwyne JONES (D, St Anthony's College)
7 Jerol FORBES (F, Naparima College)
8 Roderick ANTHONY (M, Naparima College)
9 Cyrone EDWARDS (M, Trinity College)
10 Devon LEACOCK (M, St Benedicts's College)
11 Kerron PHILLIPS (M, Arima Senior)
12 Jamal HAMID (M, Arima Senioe)
13 Kahlil MATHURA (D, St Mary's College)
14 Andre ALEXIS (F, St Benedicts's College)
15 Nkosi BLACKMAN (F, St Benedict's College)
16 Ochieng ABOSI (M, El Dorado Senior)
17 Makan HISLOP (D, Signal Hill Senior)
18 Jan-Michael WILLIAMS (F, St Anthony's College)

## USA

1 Ford WILLIAMS (G, CASL Elite)
2 David CHUN (D, Irvine Strikers)
3 Justin MAPP (M, Jackson FC)
4 Paul JOHNSON (F, SSC Dalglish)
5 Tyson WAHL (D, Irvine Strikers)
6 Chris LANCOS (D, Middletown North)
7 Mike MAGEE (F, Chicago Sockers)
8 Jordan HARVEY (D, Irvine Strikers)
9 Santino QUARANTA (F, Washington DC Utd)
10 Edward JOHNSON (F, Dallas Burn)
11 Chefik SIMO (M, Solar)
12 Gray GRIFFIN (D, Charlotte SC)
13 David JOHNSON (M, AGSS)
14 Chad MARSHALL (D, Irvine Strikers)
15 Jordan STONE (M, Dallas Texans)
16 Craig CAPANO (M, Chicago Sockers)
17 Erwin DIAZ (F, Bethesda Alliance)
18 Adam SCHUERMAN (G, Elmbrook United)

# Roma roar back into contention

## Serie A favourites Juventus have a fight on their hands, says Paddy Agnew

FIVE weeks into the Serie A season and already Dame Fortune has dealt some very mixed cards to famous names such as Ronaldo, Dino Zoff, Roberto Baggio, Enrico Chiesa and Alberto Zaccheroni.

Already, those of us who tipped Juventus as title favourites now know that the Old Lady will most certainly have a fight on her hands, above all from reigning champions Roma.

On the purely footballing front, there is no doubt that Roma pulled off the biggest win of the season so far when travelling to the Stadio Delle Alpi in Turin to outpoint Juventus 2-0. Even if this game came on only the fifth Serie A weekend of the season, it is certain to prove highly significant re the overall title contest.

Having struggled in their opening games in both Serie A and the Champions League – picking up two draws and a defeat (by Piacenza) in their first three Serie A outings and picking up a defeat (Real Madrid) and a draw (Anderlecht) in their opening Champions League ties – Roma had begun to look like a side in crisis.

Those of us who wondered if the Fabio Capello-coached side had not over-indulged in title-winning celebrations were beginning to congratulate ourselves on our penetrative insight. Just when it mattered most, however, Roma turned their poor seasonal start on its head, winning two Serie A games (v Fiorentina and Juventus) and one Champions League tie (v Lokomotiv Moscow) in the space of a week.

A win against Juventus in Turin is always worth several bags of gold. Doing it when your previous form has been poor is worth even more. Looking sharper, faster and more aggressive, Roma were full value for a win that prompted Juventus coach Marcello Lippi to comment: "Roma deserved to win. They were more determined, more willing and looked physically sharper."

The game proved a double triumph for Roma since ace Argentinian marksman Gabriel Batistuta managed to get his first League goal of the season. Batistuta did it, too, with one of his trademark, sandblasted free-kicks which forced Juve goalkeeper Gigi Buffon into an uncharacteristic error, close to half-time.

Even though Juventus upped the rhythm in the second half and Batistuta marred his performance by getting himself sent off for sticking his elbow into the face of Juve defender Michele Paramatti, Roma remained constantly dangerous on the counter-attack, eventually wrapping up the match with an injury time second goal from Brazilian midfielder Assuncao.

The arrival of former Milan, Real Madrid and Chelsea defender Christian Panucci (on loan from Monaco), the current splendid form of playmaker Francesco Totti and some pretty uncompromising dressing-room chit-chats from Capello have all combined to put Roma back on track.

As for Juventus, the defeat by Roma may prove a temporary setback for a side that had previously been unbeaten in six Serie A and Champions League outings.

If that Roma win had sent out one signal, another equally clear one had seemed to emerge just one week earlier when Milan defeated Lazio 2-0 at the San Siro. Playing some of the best football seen this season so far, Milan were in control from start to finish. (See Milan feature, page 22.)

That match also represented a bitter-sweet return to the San Siro for former Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni, sacked by the club last March. Four days prior to the game, he had been summoned by Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti to take over from Dino Zoff, who had succeeded Swede Sven Goran Eriksson last January.

Zoff, 59, was sacked immediately after a painful 3-1 home defeat by Nantes in a Champions League game. That loss was the nadir of a disastrous seasonal start during which Lazio not only lost their other Champions League tie, beaten 1-0 by Galatasaray in Istanbul, but were also held to draws by Piacenza, Perugia and Torino in their first three Serie A games.

Zoff's dismissal was rich in irony. When the man who captained Italy to 1982 World Cup glory had taken over from Eriksson, he had done so only reluctantly and only after receiving guarantees that his appointment was not a stop-gap measure. Not surprisingly, when Cragnotti tried to soften the blow of dismissal by offering Zoff the role of vice-president – a position he had held until taking over from Eriksson – the response was negative. Zoff prefers to remain on the sidelines, at least for now and perhaps until such time as he receives a call from the Italian federation, which is currently without a president.

Up and away...Roma players celebrate victory over Juventus in Turin

At his first news conference as Lazio coach, Zaccheroni had suggested that "destiny" had decreed that his first game in charge should be against his old club. If that was the case, then "destiny" was in a particularly mischievous mood, dealing out a very poor hand of cards to Zaccheroni.

Not only did Lazio crash painfully to Milan, beaten by goals from Filippo Inzaghi and Danish defender Martin Laursen, but the Roman club also lost two of their key players – Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo and central defender Alessandro Nesta.

Three days later, things went from bad to worse when Lazio went down

to a third consecutive Champions League defeat. Not only did they lose, 1-0 away to PSV Eindhoven, but they also had Argentinian midfielder Diego Simeone stretchered off the pitch with a cruciate ligament knee injury that will sideline him for at least six months.

By the time Lazio lined up to face Parma later that week at the Olympic stadium, Zaccheroni must have been wondering what he had done to offend "destiny" since he now had an injury list that included Dutch defender Jaap Stam, Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic, striker Simone Inzaghi, goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, defender Giuseppe Favalli as well as Nesta, Simeone and Crespo.

What is certain, even at this early stage of the season, is that if the coach can set the listing Lazio ship to rights, then he will have pulled off a remarkable coup. As suggested before in this column, Lazio still look like a side that have failed to adequately replace the formidable trio of Chilean striker Marcelo Salas, Argentinian playmaker Juan Veron and Czech Republic midfielder Pavel Nedved, all sold on during the summer.

If Lazio's problems were relatively predictable (and had little to do with alleged shortcomings on the part of Zoff), it would have taken a rather bolder pundit to predict that Inter would be top of the table by the fifth weekend of the season.

Not only were they top but they had also got there without much help from their two most famous players, Ronaldo and Christian Vieri.

The canny, defensive module used by Argentinian coach Hector Cuper, the defensive solidity provided by Francesco Toldo in goal and Marco Materazzi in central defence, the pace of Greek defender Grigoris Georgatos on the left and the refound playmaking skills of Dutchman Clarence Seedorf on the right all form part of the Inter success story.

Add to that the excellent form shown by reserve strikers Adriano, of Brazil, and Sierra Leone's Mohammed Kallon, and Inter seem set up for a season in which they are unlikely to win Serie A but in which they ought at least to leave far behind them the miseries of their inconsistent, tepid showings of the past two seasons.

Speaking of reserve strikers, of course, leads on to the man himself, Ronaldo, who made a long-awaited return to competitive football when playing for the last half-hour of Inter's easy 3-0 UEFA Cup, first round, first leg win against humble Romanian side Brasov in Trieste.

Inevitably, the Brazilian looked slowish, overweight and ring-rusty, as might have been expected for a player coming back after a 17-month, injury-enforced absence.

He touched the ball perhaps 14 or 15 times, managing to lose it two times out of three. He failed to have any real impact on a game that his team were already winning easily. If his name had not been Ronaldo, nobody would have paid much attention.

A week later, in the second leg of the same tie, Ronaldo played for only 40 minutes of the second half before having to limp off with a muscle pull in his right thigh. In the long run, that slight setback may prove a blessing in disguise since, such is his fame, his initial return one week earlier had been enough to prompt Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari to call him up for the World Cup tie with Chile on October 7.

'On his return for Inter, Ronaldo touched the ball perhaps 14 or 15 times, managing to lose it two times out of three. If his name had not been Ronaldo, nobody would have paid much attention'

At the time of writing, Ronaldo's most recent injury looks likely to keep him out for at least one month, something that will probably come as a relief to both Cuper and the Inter medical staff, who are understandably anxious not to see the player rushed into serious competitive action.

Ironically, in the same month that Ronaldo made his return, another star striker, Enrico Chiesa of Fiorentina, crashed out of football when badly damaging a rotular tendon in his left knee while playing (and scoring) in a 3-1 League win against Venezia. Chiesa's injury will rule him out for the rest of the season.

The Italy striker had been in excellent form with five goals in five Serie A games and his injury comes as yet another heavy blow to Fiorentina, still in search of a new owner following Vittorio Cecchi Gori's decision to sell the debt-ridden, liquidation-threatened club.

One final thought for this month concerns the Little Prince of Italian soccer, Roberto Baggio. At 34 years of age, Baggio continues to be Baggio – a player of exquisite touch and brilliant intuition with a penchant for goalscoring. Notwithstanding the fact that these days he plays for little Brescia, he still scored four goals in the first five rounds of the League season.

That form, allied to the fact that he has for so long been one of Italy's most popular sporting heroes, meant that Baggio was on the minds of many as Italy prepared for their final World Cup qualifier, against Hungary in Parma, which they won 1-0 to secure their place in Korea/Japan.

Baggio, however, threw some mischievous petrol on the fire of contention that inevitably surrounds the Italy team when saying in an interview in that same week: "My dream is to go to the World Cup finals, and just to be part of the expedition I would carry [coach] Trapattoni's bags for him. It's obvious, though, that I'll get the call-up only if I merit it on the basis of my form."

Enough said. A nationwide debate was guaranteed. Furthermore, fans at the Tardini stadium hardly helped matters by chanting "Baggio, Baggio" derisively at the Italian team towards the end of the first half and before Alessandro Del Piero wrapped up the match with a brilliant free-kick.

Remarkably, Baggio is likely to be a talking point between now and next May – provided, of course, that he remains fit and well and in his current splendid form. Despite the public clamour, though, Trapattoni probably reckons he can do just fine without him next summer, and for two reasons.

Firstly, he has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to strikers and playmakers. At the moment, people such as Del Piero, Totti, Vieri, Filippo Inzaghi, Vincenzo Montella and Marco Delvecchio would all appear to be ahead of Baggio.

Even more important, however, is the 'Baggio effect', the possible problems that could be created by taking Italy's best-known footballer to the World Cup in the role of reserve. It would require just one bad game from Totti or Del Piero for the fans (and sections of the media) to start invoking the presence of the Little Prince.

Ironically, those fans who chanted Baggio's name during the game against Hungary probably did him a disservice by upping the ante. If we had to bet on it, we would suggest that Roberto Baggio will be watching the next World Cup finals on TV.

Pulled muscle...Inter's Ronaldo

# Spanish midfielder who has found an unlikely home at small-town Brescia

BRESCIA is not quite what Pep Guardiola had in mind when he decided, last June, to wait for the right club in the right city before picking up the threads of a career cast off in Barcelona.

But that is where he has suddenly washed up, a new team-mate for Roberto Baggio, somewhere in the unfashionable middle regions of Serie A at the orders of a veteran coach in Carlo Mazzone who appears to be losing his marbles.

Not exactly the route down which Guardiola had expected to march to the World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan. But then time, he suddenly found, was running out.

It was last June that Guardiola, midfield fulcrum of the great Catalan club for most of the past decade, had decided to take a sabbatical from football. He did not know quite how long it would last. But his absence from Europe's pitches would not be permanent. To underline the point he employed a physical fitness instructor to keep him in shape for the day when he was ready to play again.

If he had wanted it, Guardiola could have put his signature to the foot of any of a dozen or more contracts waved in his direction during the summer. These came largely from abroad. Guardiola is so closely linked with Barcelona that no other outfit in Spain considered even wasting their time on an offer.

But after sifting through the small print of what did come his way, Guardiola decided that none was quite what he wanted. It was not the money. Guardiola had made it perfectly clear to friends that he wanted his next club to come with the right 'lifestyle' experience. The country had to be right, the city had to be right and the 'social ambience' had to appeal.

Nothing was to his liking. So he stayed home, appearing on occasional television chat shows and at a mixture of Catalan cultural festivals – following an earlier popular success with a public poetry reading on behalf of one of the most renowned Catalan writers.

All a far cry from the football pitches on which Guardiola made his name and to which he is expected, one day soon, to return.

## Fact file

**Club** Brescia (Ita)
**Country** Spain
**Born** January 18, 1971, in Barcelona
**Previous club** Barcelona
**International debut** October 1992, v Northern Ireland
**International caps** 46 caps (5 goals)
**Honours** European Champions Cup 1992; European Supercup 1998; European Cup-winners Cup 1997; Spanish League 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1998, 1999; Spanish Cup 1997, 1998

Guardiola was discovered as a teenager by hometown club Barça, and coach Johan Cruyff thrust the raw 19-year-old into the midfield gap left vacant by the departure of Luis Milla for Real Madrid.

Guardiola took Spanish football by storm. The boy from the suburb of Manresa was promoted into the national team after only 20 League appearances. Little more than a year later, in 1992, he won the Prix Bravo, awarded annually to the outstanding under-23 footballer in Europe.

By then Guardiola had helped steer Barcelona to victory in the European Champions Cup Final over Sampdoria at Wembley. The *Cules* – Barcelona's fans – loved him even more than international superstars such as Hristo Stoichkov and Ronald Koeman because he was one of them, a real Catalan, born and bred.

No wonder Guardiola was quickly promoted to captain. Great players came and went – including Brazilian Ronaldo, virtually a complete team of Dutchmen, Portugal's Luis Figo and Romania's Gheorghe Hagi. But Guardiola remained; as much a fixed point for the fans as he was in the heart of midfield.

As Davor Suker put it during his goal-hungry spell at Real Madrid, when he often came up against Guardiola: "He is Barcelona's heart. Everything flows through him."

Unfortunately, the one man who did not share their rose-coloured vision of Guardiola was long-term national coach Javier Clemente. The little Basque was suspicious about choosing too many players from Spain's Big Two – Barça and Real Madrid. Clemente was also among out-of-town critics who considered Guardiola's fitness to be suspect; his career has been scarred by a number of major injury-enforced absences.

So, the coach omitted the midfielder from his Euro 96 squad, while in 1998, as if confirming Clemente's caution, injury prevented Guardiola even being available for selection to go to the World Cup in France. In his absence, Spain crashed out ignominiously in the first round.

Having won a host of honours with Barcelona in the 1990s, it all began to unravel in the late spring of 2000. Barça were overtaken in the League by Deportivo La Coruna, they crashed out of the Champions League to Spanish rivals Valencia in the semi-finals, coach Louis Van Gaal quit and so did long-time president Josep Nunez.

Last season's transition season was a further disappointment. Barcelona won nothing. Foreign players swirled in and out of the club. Guardiola decided he had had enough and to dedicate his energies into improving his golf handicap.

The midfielder always insisted privately that he would return to the game "somewhere" in time to claim what he believes to be his rightful place at the heart of Spain's midfield at the 2002 World Cup finals. He would make himself available for the mid-season transfer window and that would give him half a season with one of his "dream teams".

As a player, Guardiola has always appeared to have time in which to measure the precision accuracy of his passes. In World Cup terms, however, his timing proved less secure.

Current Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho warned that if Guardiola wanted to fight for a World Cup role then January was too late to start. It would take Guardiola six weeks minimum to regain competitive match fitness and, by then, Camacho would have much of his squad nailed down. Thus, in late September, Guardiola suddenly appeared back on the market.

The prospects were disappointing. Roma were interested after a further serious injury to Brazil midfielder Emerson Ferreira. Brescia made contact. Guardiola is believed to have looked long and hard at Roma then realised that to be in World Cup contention, he needed to be playing consistently – week in, week out. That was unlikely at the Italian champions.

Brescia, now, were a different matter. They needed a midfield anchor. His place would be secure and he could 'go for it' – always assuming the unpredictable Mazzone kept the faith.

Assuming, also, freedom from injury. A player returning to action too fast after a long absence is always at risk. Guardiola more than most.

*Keir Radnedge*

# Two fronts, one problem

## Champions League glory may come at the expense of Liga success for Real Madrid, says Jeff King

CELTA VIGO'S impressive 2000-01 run-in (only two defeats in their final 20 games) and a six-match unbeaten start to the new term has prompted talk of a title challenge. Coach Victor Fernandez is having none of it. "Let's be clear," says the man who led Zaragoza to European Cup-winners Cup triumph in 1995, "Real Madrid are going to win the League." He might have added a rider – providing the capital giants take their domestic chores seriously.

Real started the season with just one win and five points from their first six League games. Yet in that same period in the Champions League, Vicente Del Bosque's side outclassed Roma on their own patch and put four goals apiece past Lokomotiv Moscow and Anderlecht. Madrid's Jekyll and Hyde form out of the blocks tells you everything you need to know about the club's priorities.

Between 1985 and 1999, Real Madrid and Barcelona won 14 of Spain's 15 League titles. The devouring nature of the Champions League suggests that kind of domestic duopoly is a thing of the past.

In May last year, Deportivo La Coruna sealed their first championship five days before Madrid won their eighth European Cup. Either side of epic wins against Manchester United, Bayern Munich and Valencia, Real lost at the Bernabeu to Racing Santander, Valladolid and Alaves. Clearly, their eye was on the main (read European) prize.

Last season's League title was greeted by many Madrid fans as a consolation prize, sealed as it was just a fortnight after the Champions League semi-final defeat by Bayern Munich.

"Our priority is the League," insisted Madrid's sports director Jorge Valdano, even as his team were giving Barcelona, a club that would greet any title like manna from heaven after two debilitating years, a nine-point start to the 2001-02 campaign. "Winning becomes a habit and that has a positive effect in the Champions League. The idea that you can switch motivation on and off at will is a trap."

The real trap is a fixture list so bloated that sane footballers are bound to pace themselves, albeit subconsciously. Real Madrid have 19 players with realistic expectations of ending the season at the World Cup finals. If Zinedine Zidane and Roberto Carlos were to meet in the Final again they could do so with as many as 75 games under their belts.

Burn out...Zinedine Zidane could face up to 75 games this season

'The name Real Madrid inspires greater respect outside Spain. The cautious way teams approach us in the Champions League shows that. But at home, the fear factor no longer exists. Spanish teams always take the game to us, even at the Bernabeu'

*Real Madrid midfielder Ivan Helguera*

In other words, if a club like Celta add their name to La Liga's roll of honour it won't be because Real and/or Barcelona have suddenly become downwardly mobile. It will be because the big two's all-stars have saved their best for the Juves and Man Uniteds.

Madrid began October with a 4-2 defeat at Las Palmas, the first of a 10-game haul in a month. "So many matches in different competitions in such a short space of time is bound to take its toll," admits Del Bosque. Especially as Real can no longer cruise to the championship in second gear.

"The name Real Madrid inspires greater respect outside Spain," argues midfielder Ivan Helguera. "The cautious way teams approach us in the Champions League shows that. But at home, that fear factor no longer exists. Spanish teams always take the game to us, even at the Bernabeu."

Real's domestic rivals know sitting back and waiting for Raul and co to strike is asking for trouble. Throw in a papier-mache defence – 12 goals conceded in those first six games was a League high – and attack is clearly the best form of defence. Shot-shy Las Palmas had failed to score in four games before putting four past Iker Casillas.

Real Madrid aren't the only team with problems competing on two fronts. Mallorca's Champions League debut began promisingly with two wins in three matches. Back home, however, they managed just one goal and one win in their first six League games. Take one key player out of the equation at clubs with smaller squads – in Mallorca's case, injured playmaker Ibagaza – and you upset the whole apple cart. Either Bernd Krauss's side shape up on the home front or the German coach will go the same way as Andoni Goikoetxea, sacked by Rayo Vallecano after five games this season, having been shown the door by Racing Santander after 13 games last year.

Betis and Villarreal both found themselves in the top three after six games. Not coincidentally, neither club have the added burden of European fixtures. Now coached by former Rayo miracle worker Juande Ramos, Betis were on the wrong end of a five-goal thriller at Malaga on day one but bounced back with four wins, among then a 3-1 victory over Real Madrid.

Three years after arriving in Spain as the world's most expensive player, Denilson no longer flatters to deceive, while Seville-born youngsters Joaquin, Varela and Capi have taken to the top flight with aplomb. Argentinian striker Gaston Casas' goals were vital as Betis sealed promotion; he began the new term with four in as many games.

Back from Brazil...Denilson (right) is at last living up to his star billing at Betis

Unlike many Spanish coaches, Victor Munoz doesn't have to contend with crippling renditions of 'So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye'. During the first week of October, 33 players missed League fixtures because of international duty. Real Madrid and Valencia lost half-a-dozen each. Villarreal lost none. Noblesse may oblige, but it doesn't make winning the League any easier for the aristocrats.

Of Celta's half-a-dozen new recruits only Peter Luccin, a £1.5million snip from Paris Saint-Germain, has been a fixture in Victor Fernandez's starting XI. The 22-year-old's tigerish presence in midfield is one of the reasons the Galicians look a tougher proposition this season. The fact that fellow new boys Zvonimir Boban and Silvinho spent most of the early exchanges on the bench suggests that Fernandez's international brigade (Celta's 16 foreigners is a Liga high) are well-equipped to up the ante. Four clean sheets in their first five games is a sign Celta have tightened up at the back too.

Barcelona are another team to have upped the defensive intensity. Carles Rexach may be a graduate of the Johan Cruyff school of artistic football, but that hasn't stopped him deploying a back four of defenders (both novelties down Camp Nou way) and 11 players who defend when the opposition has the ball (another first).

Former Bayern Munich centre-back Patrik Andersson adds much-needed physical presence in the heart of the defence, while Brazilian teenager Fabio Rochemback is the kind of take-no-prisoners midfielder Barça were crying out for. The fact that Luis Enrique is getting more playing time in attack than Javier Saviola is further evidence of a more muscular approach.

Despite the fact that Rivaldo and Marc Overmars managed only 146 minutes between them by mid-October, the waif-like Argentinian has been used sparingly by Rexach. However, the numbers that matter are the two goals (both penalties) new keeper Roberto Bonano conceded in the first six games.

Exactly a year after a 3-0 defeat at Besiktas threw a spanner in Barça's 2000-01 season, the Catalans were back in Istanbul, this time to face Fenerbahce. After the Besiktas debacle, Barça's boardroom critics accused the players of performing like a bunch of ballroom dancers. Three minutes into the Fenerbahce game, Rochemback was tap-dancing on Samuel Johnson's face. It wasn't pretty but Barça ran out 3-0 winners.

At home, the new model Barça were top after six games. However, the jury is still out on the transformation. Barça's next five opponents – Deportivo, Valencia, Malaga, Betis and Real Madrid – will provide more of a test.

## Pro-file Vicente

# Local boy proving wing wizard for Valencia and Spain

VALENCIA have lost an alarming number of top players over the past 18 months, but there is one position in which they still have talent to spare.

No club in Europe boasts two left-sided midfielders to compare with Kily Gonzalez and Vicente. Only Gaizka Mendieta was more influential in the *Ches'* run to consecutive Champions League Finals than Kily. It says everything about 20-year-old Vicente's vast potential that Valencia were ready to listen to offers for the Argentinian this summer.

Where Kily is all nerve and aggression, Vicente's ability to attack defenders at pace is more reminiscent of Ryan Giggs. Last season the gazelle-like winger started 20 games after joining Valencia for £2.5million from their Second Division neighbours Levante. His form was good enough to earn a Spain debut, but Kily remained first choice at Mestalla. Given Vicente's superb start to the new campaign, coach Rafa Benitez is likely to solve his dilemma by using the more physical Kily in a central role.

Vicente first made the news as a 16-year-old when Levante placed a £130m buy-out clause on his head. That may have been a publicity stunt, but Real Madrid, Arsenal and Manchester United are all long-time admirers. In December 1998 Levante rejected a £350,000 deal with Madrid on a contractual technicality; this summer, £10m plus Savio wasn't enough to prise the winger away from Mestalla.

Previously, Vicente had been on the verge of joining former Levante team-mate Lauren at Arsenal, but Valencia's last-minute move led Vicente to change clubs but not city.

After two brief cameos last season, Vicente was man of the match as Spain sealed World Cup qualification with a 4-0 win against Austria in September. After two years improvising with the likes of Etxeberria and Luis Enrique, coach Jose Camacho now has a genuine left-sided player for his preferred 4-4-2 formation. Vicente remains unfazed, saying: "I'm taking nothing for granted. My father used to say over and over again: 'Whatever happens, keep your feet on the ground.'"

Juventus director general Luciano Moggi says: "Not since the days of [Real Madrid legend] Paco Gento has there been such a quick and talented Spanish winger." Rare praise, but hardly music to the ears of a club that has lost Piojo Lopez, Francisco Farinos and Mendieta to Italy in quick succession. Within days of Vicente's opening-day exhibition against Real Madrid, his agent was banging on Valencia's door demanding a pay rise. Vicente denied knowledge of such opportunism – but on current form, his chances of a long career at Mestalla are limited.

*Jeff King*

### Fact file

**Club** Valencia
**Country** Spain
**Born** July 16, 1981, in Valencia
**Previous club** Levante
**International debut** March 2001, v France
**International caps** 3 (0 goals)

# Lille to the fore

The northerners have made a surprisingly good start in Europe and at home, writes Andre Duclos

Battling through...Bruno Cheyrou gets the better of Man United's Wes Brown

LILLE are surely the surprise packet of the Champions League. Inspired and cleverly organised by coach Vahid Halilhodzic, they were well worth a draw at Old Trafford, where only a very late goal by David Beckham robbed them. They then made short work of Olympiakos at home.

Dagui Bakari, the tall, powerful, 27-year-old centre-forward, has truly come into his own; Pascal Cygan, who never even gets mentioned as a potential French international, was a formidable barrier to United; and the Cheyrou brothers, Benoit and Bruno, are flowering.

Bakari's career is further evidence that a footballer should never give up hope. Brought up on the outskirts of Paris, he was not one of those snapped up early by a major club. It was with little Noisy-le-Sec in the National League that he got his chance, and eventually Amiens, hardly a leading force, came in for him. However, they wouldn't give him a run, and a lesser man might well have despaired.

But things were to improve. Le Mans took him on, and in 1999, at last, Lille decided to take a chance. With an ex-centre-forward of such renown at the helm, Bakari was in good hands, and he has flourished ever since.

Bruno Cheyrou, the older of the two brothers, at 23 – Benoit, developed by Lille, is still only 20 – exuberantly struck one of Lille's three goals against Olympiakos. He signed for Lille from nearby Lens, whom he had joined as a youngster. He saw Lens as essentially a working-class club; Lille, despite the fact that they had by that time fallen out of the elite, as the big-city team.

Now, he says, "the values are reversed". Halilhodzic, he recounts, put everything in order. "There were no longer any permanent first-teamers. But a month after he arrived, he picked me in central defence against Nice, and since then I have practically not been out of the team."

In the meantime, Bruno has been

GERMANY

# Kaiserslautern lose at last

Nick Bidwell on the *Lauterer's* record-equalling start to the Bundesliga season

EIGHT and out. After winning their first seven Bundesliga games this season, runaway leaders Kaiserslautern finally showed some fallibility, losing 2-0 at bottom-of-the-table Wolfsburg.

It looked the ideal opportunity for the *Lauterer* to set a record for the best start to a Bundesliga campaign – they had equalled Bayern Munich's seven straight victories in 1994-95 – but it was the underdogs' afternoon.

Wolfsburg won the midfield battle, keeper Claus Reitmaier pulled off three sensational saves on the rare occasions Kaiserslautern threatened, and Polish striker Andrzej Juskowiak and Frank Greiner scored a goal in each half.

Despite the defeat, there can be no doubting Kaiserslautern have the players to maintain a championship challenge. Underrated keeper Georg Koch is a serious contender for the national squad, new signings such as Slovenian central defender Alex Knavs – the Bundesliga Player of the Month for August – and Brazilian playmaker Lincoln have hit top form from the off, while left-sided Luxembourg midfielder Jeff Strasser and lanky Czech striker Vratislav Lokvenc have improved out of all recognition.

Moreover, coach Andreas Brehme will have even more options now that French midfielder Youri Djorkaeff is back in the fold. Djorkaeff had vowed never to play for Kaiserslautern again, but after moves to Lyon, Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille fell through, he had no option but to make peace with the club.

The other early-season pacesetters, Borussia Dortmund, have stuttered of late. A 2-0 loss at home to Bayern Munich and a 1-0 defeat by Schalke in the Ruhr derby were severe blows to the *Dortmunder* morale, and they followed those results up by only drawing 1-1 at home to Bayer Leverkusen, despite dominating for much of the game.

"At half-time, we would not have been flattered by a 3-0 or even a 5-0 lead," said Dortmund coach Matthias Sammer. "If we are to be a big team, we have to have more of a killer instinct."

Even so, it is hard to believe the Dortmund slump will endure. In Czech playmaker Tomas Rosicky and the Czech-Brazilian strikeforce of Jan Koller and Marcio Amoroso, they boast extraordinarily high levels of creativity and finishing ability.

The side's attacking potential has been further enhanced by the signing of adventurous midfielder Ewerthon, for £2.5million from Corinthians of Sao Paulo. The versatile Brazilian – who can operate with equal elan on either the right or the left flanks – did not take long to make an impact. On his Bundesliga debut, a 2-1 win away to St Pauli, he captivated everyone with his mazy dribbling, speed and imagination. Ewerthon's performance was capped by a marvellous goal, getting hold of the ball after a goalmouth scramble, juggling with it to make space and volleying home.

Besides Dortmund, Bayern and Kaiserslautern, the other team likely to be in the League shake-up are Leverkusen. Unbeaten in their opening eight Bundesliga games and bursting with confidence after an excellent 2-1 win over Barcelona in the Champions League, Leverkusen are allying positive results with spectacular football.

None of their players has been more important than young Turkish midfield general Yildiray Basturk and evergreen striker Ulf Kirsten. Since signing last summer from relegated Bochum, the left-footed Basturk's

profitably switched to the left of midfield, where he is expected to move the ball quickly and effectively to the attack; though as we have seen, he can score himself.

There were those sceptics who believed Lille's success – their promotion to Division One, their gaining a place in the Champions League – was a flash in the pan. "We have shown them they were wrong," says Bruno.

But as for winning the League, Lille face strong competition from Auxerre, revitalised after the return of coach Guy Roux and with Olivier Kapo in form up front. Also, Auxerre do not have European commitments.

And Nantes? Explain them if you can. There is just no link between their astonishing successes in Europe – two wins from their opening three Champions League games – and their flimsy form at home – bottom of the table and without a win after eight rounds. Yet apart from the loss of outstanding midfielder Eric Carriere, it is hard to explain why the champions should have lost such spark, at least in domestic competition.

How to explain the oscillating form of defenders such as Argentinian international Nestor Fabbri, scorer of that third-minute goal in Rome against Lazio, and 21-year-old left-back Sylvain Arnand, who joyfully banged in another that evening? On song, the greatly gifted, much-travelled Stephane Ziani, not yet 30, and newcomer Olivier Quint are perfectly capable of inheriting the constructive duties of Carriere.

Nantes' dedicated manager, Raynald Denoueix, has spent almost the whole of his career at the club and has certainly learned from the iconic Jean-Claude Suaudeau.

Previously number two to Suaudeau, Denoueix took over in 1997, won the French Cup twice in a row, in 1999 and 2000, following it up with the championship. This season, however, he has found himself embroiled in an illogical nightmare.

Upset...the *Lauterer* fell at Wolfsburg

game has improved by leaps and bounds. He always had inventiveness and magnificent passing ability, but now he has added consistency and industry to his game.

As for 35-year-old Kirsten, he simply keeps on doing what he always has done – piling on the goals. He remains as feisty and sharp in the box as ever and Franz Beckenbauer was not the only one advocating his recall to the national team.

However, it is not the style of Leverkusen coach Klaus Toppmoller to heap praise on individuals, preferring to focus on the collective and mental improvements his side have made.

"What has really pleased me is the absolute will to win and unbelievable team spirit that has developed here," he said. "The mindset of the lads has become so much stronger. We believe in ourselves."

Struggling Hamburg became the first club to sack their coach this season when dispensing with Frank Pagelsdorf. He could not have expected anything else. A poor 13th-place finish last season had already placed him under great pressure and a run of just one win in six at the start of this term inevitably brought the curtain down.

Pagelsdorf was replaced by Kurt Jara, who was prised away from Austrian champions FC Tirol.

## Pro-file Lucio

# Leverkusen's forward-thinking Brazilian defender

BERTI VOGTS got precious little right during his seven-month reign as Bayer Leverkusen coach, but he was correct in his verdict on the club's Brazilian central defender, Lucio.

"Lucio is a real star," gushed Vogts shortly after the player arrived from Internacional of Porto Alegre for £5.5million in January. "He has made an immediate impact in the Bundesliga and in a couple of years Italian clubs will be fighting over him. He is an extraordinary talent."

Vogts, arguably the world's premier man-marker in the 1970s, knows an outstanding defender when he sees one, and Lucio's pace, tackling bite and aerial power make him just that.

But the Brazilian also has a great creative contribution to make, with his precise passing, give-and-gos in midfield, and an ability to get into goalscoring positions.

In short, Lucio can turn defence into attack in the blink of an eye, an attribute exemplified by his goal for Leverkusen in their 4-1 win over Rhineland rivals Koln last February. He burst into enemy territory, played a one-two with Ulf Kirsten, and after controlling the ball with his right foot, lashed it home with his left.

He was at it again on the opening day of this season, scoring both goals in the 2-1 home win over Wolfsburg. However, he does have a tendency to over-indulge on the pretty stuff, a trait not lost on Leverkusen coach Klaus Toppmoller. "At half-time I had to strongly tick him off," he said after the 3-3 draw at Schalke in August. "He was leaving us exposed by taking too many risks." Despite this, Lucio has been nothing less than sensational, playing a key part in turning Bayer into real challengers for the Bundesliga title.

But for how much longer will he remain at Leverkusen? Roma, Lazio and Barcelona were all willing to pay at least £20million for him last summer, and despite Bayer's inevitable 'hands-off' warning, it is unlikely he will see out his contract, which runs until July 2004.

A Brazilian international for the past year, Lucio says he hopes to have "the honour of wearing the national team shirt at the 2002 World Cup finals". Yet just a few weeks ago, that objective appeared decidedly unrealistic. Leverkusen refused to release him both for the Copa America and a friendly against Panama, and Brazil boss Luiz Felipe Scolari threatened never to pick Lucio again.

Big Phil later relented, and quite rightly too. Brazil need Lucio onside.

*Nick Bidwell*

### Fact file

**Club** Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
**Country** Brazil
**Born** May 8, 1978, in Brasilia
**Previous clubs** Clube Regatas Guara, Internacional (Porto Alegre)
**International debut** November 2000, v Colombia
**International caps** 10 (0 goals)

# Leeds look the likely lads

## David O'Leary's side are emerging as the most serious challengers to Man United, says Gavin Hamilton

LEEDS UNITED stood atop the Premiership table, three points clear of Arsenal and Manchester United, when the teams took an enforced break for the World Cup qualifiers in early October.

In August, many predicted, ourselves included, that Man United would romp to their fourth successive League title. Leeds' early charge suggests the Old Trafford side may have a fight on their hands.

Leeds established their title credentials by beating Arsenal at Highbury. Their 2-1 victory over Ipswich was achieved despite a poor performance. But winning while playing badly is the hallmark of all champions. Add the lack of priority placed on the UEFA Cup and Leeds must be considered strong contenders.

Manager David O'Leary thinks so. "They're only babies" was a common complaint from the Irishman last season as he tried to dampen rising expectations of his young side. But that has been replaced by a more positive tone. O'Leary clearly has silverware in his sights when he says: "The first trophy is always the hardest but once you get one – and I don't feel it is far away – this side is capable of getting more."

O'Leary has a squad capable of challenging Manchester United. He has cover in all positions, though Leeds are said to be looking for an additional striker. Robbie Fowler would fit the bill, especially as his position at Liverpool remains uncertain.

Fowler's relations with manager Gerard Houllier remain frosty. Following Michael Owen's enforced absence with yet another hamstring injury, Houllier opted for Emile Heskey and Jari Litmanen ahead of Fowler. That will not have gone unnoticed at Leeds and other clubs, notably Aston Villa, who have long admired Fowler's finishing skills.

Fowler continues to insist he will stay and fight for his place, while Houllier is fearful of upsetting the fans, for whom local boy Fowler is a big favourite. But the longer he remains without first-team action, the more his place in England's World Cup squad will be jeopardised. Watch this space.

Sir Alex Ferguson has striker problems, but of a different kind. The United manager is clear about one first-choice forward, Ruud Van Nistelrooy, but cannot decide on the formation in which to play him. Ferguson has been reluctant to break up last season's midfield quartet of David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Roy Keane and Ryan Giggs, admittedly one of the best in Europe. But the summer arrival of Juan Veron has necessitated changes. Ferguson has mostly deployed Scholes as a secondary forward behind Van Nistelrooy, but Veron played in the Scholes role against Deportivo, with disappointing results.

In other games, Ferguson has opted for Andy Cole alongside Van Nistelrooy in a more conventional 4-4-2.

The tactical uncertainties, not to mention the defensive teething troubles of Laurent Blanc (see profile, opposite) have at least made for some entertaining football. Already this season, United have been involved in two of the most enjoyable matches of recent times, a 4-3 defeat at Newcastle and an amazing 5-3 victory at Tottenham.

The statistics make painful reading for United fans of a nervous disposition. In 10 games this season, the champions have scored 25 but conceded 17. In four away League games, 10 goals have been conceded, the highest in the Premiership.

Yet their attacking abilities, plus Ferguson's half-time team-talks, look like keeping them on the straight and narrow. After going 3-0 down in the first half at Spurs, United tore through their hosts with such venom after the break that the home defence, featuring £8million debutant Dean Richards, could not cope. "God help the rest of us when United start getting clean sheets," remarked Spurs manager Glenn Hoddle.

God is unlikely to provide any assistance to former Hoddle charge Paul Gascoigne, but at least Gazza is now seeking professional help after admitting he is an alcoholic.

Yet drink continues to be one of the biggest demons afflicting the English game. Frank Lampard was dropped from the England squad to face Greece following tabloid revelations of a drinking binge with Chelsea team-mates at a Heathrow airport hotel after their UEFA Cup match against Levski Sofia had been cancelled following the terrorist atrocities in New York and Washington.

Finally, spare a thought for Peter Taylor, sacked as manager of Leicester a few months after turning down an offer from the FA to coach England's Under-21s. Under Taylor and his predecessor, Martin O'Neill, Leicester have lived way above their means. How they will fare in an increasingly cut-throat Premiership remains to be seen.

Taylor's departure was followed a few days later by that of Jim Smith, as manager of Derby County.

Bonding...Keane, Bowyer, Kewell and Batty celebrate a Leeds goal in a 3-0 victory over Derby

First blood...Stilian Petrov unleashes his free-kick that put Celtic 1-0 up at Ibrox

## SCOTLAND

### Old Firm win keeps Celtic on course

IF THE result of the season's first Old Firm clash is anything to go by, Celtic look likely to repeat the domestic successes of last term.

Despite being outplayed for long periods by a rejuvenated Rangers, the champions put in an accomplished performance at Ibrox, churning out a 2-0 victory thanks to goals from Stilian Petrov and Alan Thompson.

This extended Celtic's League lead to seven points over their Glasgow rivals, who were hampered by the dismissal of Italian defender Lorenzo Amoruso for a professional foul on Henrik Larsson.

Rangers' UEFA Cup tie against Anzhi Makhachkala produced its own drama, with the Ibrox side demanding their away leg be moved from Makhachkala, in Dagestan, due to its proximity to the Chechnyan war zone.

After much diplomatic wrangling, UEFA deemed that the teams should play a one-off tie on neutral territory. Dick Advocaat's men then stuttered to a 1-0 win at the Legia stadium in Warsaw, courtesy of a scrambled goal from much-maligned Dutch defender Bert Konterman.

St Johnstone's poor start to the domestic season – bottom of the table without a win in eight games – led to the dismissal of manager Sandy Clark, who was replaced by former Aberdeen and Celtic midfielder Billy Stark.

*Alan Fairley*

## WALES

### Nomads journey to the top

CONNAH'S QUAY NOMADS were the surprise League leaders after six games, having won five of their opening encounters.

Nomads, who finished mid-table last season, have shown a new-found consistency under manager Nev Powell.

Defending champions Barry Town were left looking for a manager after Peter Nicholas took up an assistant manager's post at Swansea City, of the English Third Division.

*Mel Thomas*

## N IRELAND

### Glentoran set the pace

DEFENDING champions Linfield made a stuttering start to the campaign, with the defence, so secure last season, showing worrying frailties.

Another Belfast side, Glentoran, took full advantage by going top of the table. Their five wins from the first seven games included a hard-fought 1-0 home victory over Linfield, though the celebrations were soured when Linfield manager David Jeffrey was attacked by a Glentoran supporter as he left the pitch.

Portadown were the surprise challengers, lying second having finished third from bottom last term. Their revival has been sparked by the fine form of prolific goalscorer Vinny Arkins and midfielders Peter McCann and Michael Collins.

*Roy Kitson*

## Pro-file Laurent Blanc

# French veteran struggling to find his feet in England

SETTLING in at Manchester United was never going to be easy for Laurent Blanc. The French central defender arrived at Old Trafford days after Jaap Stam was sold to Lazio for £16million, a move described by Leeds manager David O'Leary as "the most baffling transfer I have ever come across".

Debate has raged over whether Stam was sold to soothe Sir Alex Ferguson's anger over the Dutchman's autobiography or to fill a hole in United's bank balance. Amid the furore, Blanc has struggled to come to terms with the pace and intensity of England's Premiership. The United defence, the cornerstone of the club's success in recent seasons, has been leaking goals in alarming fashion.

But Blanc insists that what he lacks in speed, he makes up for in guile. "I have never been very fast and I am not going to start at nearly 36," he recently told *France Football*. "But nothing replaces intelligence or reading of the game.

"All through my career I have known how to compensate through my positioning and competitiveness in the air. Even if the English championship is very direct, I'm not too worried. I will try to improve in the physical duels but I won't change my game."

United manager Ferguson knew what he was getting with Blanc – he had long been an admirer, having tried to sign him from Auxerre in 1996, only for the player to commit himself to Barcelona.

"I was signed by Johan Cruyff and that was a big reason for going there, but when I arrived he had gone," said Blanc.

A year later he moved back to France, and Marseille, before joining Internazionale in 1999. It was his second spell in Italy, the first having been brief, at Napoli in 1991-92. He was deemed too adventurous by the Italians, and returned to France, to Nimes, going on to win the League and Cup double with Auxerre in 1996.

Blanc's Champions League appearances for United have been his first in the competition – a remarkable fact for a player who has been so successful at international level. After taking the European Under-21 crown in 1988, he went on to win the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, collecting almost 100 caps along the way.

Blanc's absence from the World Cup Final in Paris, having being harshly sent off after a tussle with Croatia's Slaven Bilic in the semi-final, remains his biggest regret. His early problems at Old Trafford remain a blip by comparison.

*Gavin Hamilton*

### Fact file

**Club** Manchester United (Eng)
**Country** France
**Born** November 19, 1965, in Ales
**Previous clubs** Montpellier, Napoli (Ita), Nimes, Saint-Etienne, Auxerre, Barcelona (Spa), Marseille, Internazionale (Ita)
**International debut** February 1989, v Rep of Ireland
**International caps** 96 (16 goals)
**Honours** World Cup 1998; European Championship 2000; European Under-21 Championship 1988; French League 1996 (Auxerre); French Cup 1996

# PSV plumb the depths

The champions have suffered a serious downturn in domestic form, writes Klaas-Jan Droppert

## HOLLAND

PSV went into the current League campaign with almost every observer predicting they would win the championship for the third season running. The thinking was that, despite the departure of forward Ruud Van Nistelrooy to Manchester United, the Eindhoven side would continue their success, having retained key players such as Mark Van Bommel, Kevin Hofland, Johann Vogel, Mateja Kezman and Yuri Nikiforov.

However, things are not going to plan this term. After suffering four defeats in their first seven matches, PSV were only 14th in the table. The club's Belgian coach Eric Gerets suffered a further blow when learning that skipper and influential midfielder Van Bommel will be sidelined for at least three months with a knee injury.

Strangely, PSV have been showing good form in the Champions League. Home victories over Galatasaray and Lazio, following an opening defeat away to Nantes, have put them in line for qualification for the second group phase.

Maybe Gerets should ask his Ajax counterpart, Co Adriaanse, how to handle a crisis. He was almost sacked after his team made a jittery start to the season, but having made a tactical switch to playing 5-3-2, Ajax have not dropped a single point and stood at the top of the table after six games.

A major force in their success is Rafael Van der Vaart. The 18-year-old midfielder is scoring vital goals and is probably the best player in Holland at the moment.

Roda JC have sacked their coach Jan Van Dijk after just five matches. His harsh and aggressive approach to management did not fit well with the traditions of the club, and Van Dijk did himself few favours by leaving fans' favourite Eric Van der Luer on the bench.

Former Belgian national team coach Georges Leekens has taken over, but Roda were still bottom of the table after seven rounds.

Sadly enough, violence has returned to Holland's stadiums. It reached its lowest point when the derby between NAC Breda and Willem II had to be abandoned after 20 minutes. Referee Rene Temmink took the decision after Willem II keeper Geert De Vlieger was pelted with coins, golf balls and mobile phones.

Former Holland Under-21 international Willem Korsten has been forced to retire at the age of 26 because of a hip injury. Korsten has recently been at Tottenham, following spells at NEC Breda, Vitesse Arnhem and Leeds.

Injury blow...PSV's Mark Van Bommel

Goal-feast...Wesley Sonck

## BELGIUM

### Leclercq leaves on losing streak

HOW swiftly fortunes have changed for Daniel Leclercq, who has resigned as La Louviere. The 52-year-old Frenchman was regarded as a hero after rescuing the newly-promoted club from near-certain relegation last spring. However, he could not keep the momentum going this term and departed following a 2-1 defeat at Gent. This left his side with only one point from their first seven games.

Emilio Ferrera became an instant candidate for the vacancy, despite having just lost his job at Beveren, who were only a point better off. However, the La Louviere post finally went to ex-RWD Molenbeek boss Ariel Jacobs.

At the other end of the table, Club Brugge were threatening to improve on last season's record-breaking start to a campaign of 14 successive wins. However, they came unstuck in game six, losing 2-1 at home to Genk.

The visitors' first goal was scored by 23-year-old Wesley Sonck, who thereby jumped to the top of the national scoring chart. The youngster is the discovery of the season. Not content with scoring two hat-tricks in his club's first three games, Sonck also opened the scoring for Belgium in the September World Cup tie with Scotland.

Gent are the early pacesetters, with the goal-a-game form of new Danish forward Anders Nielsen going a long way to securing their seven successive victories since the start of the season.

*Nicholas Harling*

## SWITZERLAND

### Sion gain partial reprieve

SION, facing a 10-point penalty for two separate rule infringements, escaped with only a three-point deduction after the FA appeals board overturned one of the decisions against them.

The disciplinary committee had originally docked seven points for an infringement of the licensing regulations, but an appeal from the Valais region club was upheld on a technicality.

However, there was no escape from the three-point penalty imposed for fielding too many foreign players during a League match against St Gallen. Sion's French coach Laurent Roussey quit immediately after that game and left for his homeland, but he returned to the fold after club president Gilbert Kadji refused to accept his resignation and following appeals from the players.

*Ivar von Rulach*

## PORTUGAL

### Lights to go out on Benfica's stadium

THE general meeting of Benfica members held at the end of September voted overwhelmingly to demolish the club's Stadium of Light and replace it with a new arena, built on adjoining land.

The project received more than 90 per cent of the votes cast, but came in the wake of fierce opposition, which included the resignation of four of the Lisbon club's account committee members.

The main grounds of contention were that the scheme was not financially viable, that the debt-ridden

club have been spending beyond their means – some £17million went on three players alone over the summer – and that the levelling of the famous stadium, inaugurated in 1954, would be sacrilege.

Having received the members' approval for the scheme, Benfica will now sell the land on which the current stadium stands for the construction of a new apartment and shopping complex, with the money raised going towards the building of the new ground.

The club are also hopeful of receiving up to £60m in government grants, since the new stadium is in line to host Euro 2004 games – if UEFA accepts assurances about its completion date.

Elsewhere, newly-promoted Santa Clara have named Manuel Fernandes as their new coach. He takes over from Carlos Manuel, under whom the club had struggled in the early part of the season. It is Fernandes' second spell in charge of Santa Clara.

*Alberto da Silva*

**REP IRELAND**

## St Patrick's docked nine points

ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC beat Dundalk 2-0 away at the end of September to go top of the League for the first time in over two years. However, the next day the club received confirmation from the FAI that they were to have nine points deducted for fielding an ineligible player in three games.

The Dublin Saints had erroneously posted the letter with Paul Marney's registration to the League's offices by regular post and not registered post, as is the rule. Marney played in St Pat's 'B' team last season.

Initially the Eircom League imposed a £1,000 fine on the Saints for the clerical error, but Shelbourne, who had played against St Patrick's with Marney in the side, then lodged an appeal. The matter went before the FAI appeals committee, who upheld the protest.

*Sean Creedon*

**LUXEMBOURG**

## Crash threatens Holtz's career

THE career of 27-year-old international midfielder Luc Holtz is in the balance after he was seriously injured in a car crash, which killed his long-time girlfriend, Miriam Colette.

Holtz, who has played over 40 times for Luxembourg and is player-coach of top division Etzella Ettelbruck, was detained in hospital following the accident, raising fears he would never play again. Colette, 23, was captain of the Luxembourg handball team.

*Tim Brice*

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

## Zech quits after Biedermann

NATIONAL team defender Harry Zech has announced his retirement from the international scene, after winning almost 40 caps. The 32-year-old cited the sudden resignation of FA president Otto Biedermann as his reason for quitting. Biedermann's replacement is Dr Markus Wanger, a lawyer.

*Graeme Crawford*

Dying Light...Benfica's famous stadium is set to be demolished

# Pro-file Kevin Hofland

## Classy PSV centre-back destined for England

WHEN Manchester United director Peter Kenyon met Harry Van Raaij at the Champions League draw, the PSV chairman made it perfectly clear: after Ruud Van Nistelrooy there wouldn't be another player leaving Eindhoven this season.

That's a major blow for the English champions, who consider young centre-back Kevin Hofland as the natural successor to the recently departed Jaap Stam.

Not that the 22-year-old regrets the club's decision. "At the moment I'm happy playing at PSV," says Hofland. "I've still got a lot to learn. I should become better in build-up play, be more dominant on the pitch and, above all, score a little more often. When I've improved these aspects of my game, that's the time to move abroad."

Even so, that will be sooner rather than later. Hofland has been making rapid progress since joining PSV from Fortuna Sittard in summer 2000, and although he has recently renewed his contract, tying himself to the Eindhoven club until 2006, it's highly unlikely that he will see this out. Indeed, it is probable that he will be with an English Premier League club at the start of next season.

The centre-back had the choice to go to Feyenoord or PSV from Fortuna, opting for the latter because Eindhoven is nearer his home town, Brunssum, in the southern province of Limburg.

Hofland was right to do so. Within a year he was a key player in PSV's defence, part of Holland's best central defensive partnership, with Yuri Nikiforov, and had made his breakthrough at international level.

This season, the centre-back has again been in form, notably putting in a solid performance and scoring the winning goal in the home Champions League match against Lazio.

Hofland's speed, vision and strength in the air make him good enough for the Premier League, although he maybe lacks a bit of flair. Even so, he's got an awful lot of good qualities for a player who nearly didn't make it as a professional.

For a period during Hofland's time in the Fortuna youth ranks he was neglected by his coaches. Hardly playing, Hofland was seriously thinking of quitting the game. But with the help of his father, Hub, who played for some minor pro clubs in Belgium, he battled back. So much so that Hofland is now set to become the latest Dutchman to seek his fortune abroad.

*Klaas-Jan Droppert*

### Fact file

**Club** PSV Eindhoven
**Country** Holland
**Born** July 7, 1979, in Brunssum
**Previous clubs** Limburgia, Fortuna Sittard
**International debut** November 2000, v Spain
**International caps** 6 (0 goals)
**Honours** Dutch League 2001

## Pro-file Pa Modou-Kah

# Norway's versatile stopper with a first-class future

THERE have inevitably been calls for the changing of Norway's national team guard now they have failed to qualify for the 2002 World Cup, and Valerenga's highly-rated Pa Modou-Kah is one of the front-runners to bag a place.

The 21-year-old may only be playing in the Norwegian Second Division at the moment – Valerenga were relegated last term – but on the basis of his recent form at club and Under-21 level, he would not be out of place in the senior ranks. Indeed, he has already made his full international bow, against South Korea in January.

Modou-Kah has two outstanding attributes. Firstly, he can play virtually anywhere: right or central midfield, full-back, striker or stopper, with the latter being his most effective position. Some have noted similarities with Marcel Desailly, and the youngster certainly shows some of the Frenchman's steel and elegance.

Equally important is the 21-year-old's supreme self-confidence. You would never guess he has been playing regular first-team football for only 18 months, especially when he starts issuing instructions to Valerenga player-coach Kjetil Rekdal, capped 83 times by Norway.

"At times, Modou-Kah does things that few can match," says Norwegian Under-18 head coach Bjorn Hansen. "He is very good on the ball, has good pace and is very athletic. He must work on his consistency, but he definitely has what it takes to go far."

Hansen is not the only admirer and it is likely that the player will leave for one of Europe's top leagues when the Norwegian season ends later this month.

Modou-Kah, born in Norway of West African parents, has already come close to leaving Valerenga. Last November he had a trial with Manchester United – despite being a Liverpool fan – and might well be at Old Trafford now if he had not suffered a training ground injury.

Real Madrid even made an official approach in September but Valerenga refused to play ball. "Real wanted him to train with the first team and hoped to sign him before the Champions League deadline," says Modou-Kah's agent, Gunnar Martin Kjenner.

Valerenga, well positioned to regain their top-flight status, believe it would be in the player's best interests to stay with them for the next couple of years.

Understandably, he thinks otherwise, saying: "Who wouldn't go if Real Madrid came in for you?" Modou-Kah need not lose any sleep, though. His dream move is surely just around the corner.

*Nick Bidwell*

### Fact file

**Club** Valerenga
**Country** Norway
**Born** July 30, 1980, in Oslo
**Previous clubs** Skeid, Sagene
**International debut** January 2001, v South Korea
**International caps** 1 (0 goals)





# Pay-day for Olsen

World Cup joy brings its rewards, writes Jim Holden

## DENMARK

NATIONAL team coach Morten Olsen earned himself a new four-year contract and a huge pay rise after steering Denmark to the World Cup finals next summer.

The team's rampant 6-0 victory at home to Iceland clinched qualification and earned effusive praise from Denmark's France 98 boss, Bo Johansson.

"That was one of the best games I have ever seen Denmark play," he said. "Perhaps the opposition wasn't the greatest but you could see the way the team played that there is so much potential there. The movement, the passing, the goals – it was superb."

The public clamour for Olsen to have his contract extended meant he received virtually all the 'double-my-money' demand he made to the Danish FA recently. A free car came in the package, too, although being Denmark this was an up-market saloon rather than a Ferrari.

The future of his assistant, Michael Laudrup, is less certain. He will definitely play a role in the finals next summer, but was stalling on a new contract with the DBU as he considered the option of a first venture into club management.

Laudrup's former club Brondby are known to be keen but there would surely also be interest from abroad were he to become available as a club boss.

As it is, Brondby are doing very well with their current coach, Age Hareide, lying top of the Superliga after 10 rounds and without having conceded a goal at home. AaB Aalborg stood just a point behind but champions FC Copenhagen were languishing in fifth place. The latter's new coach is Swede Hans Backe, who joined from Salzburg to replace Kent Karlsson.

## NORWAY

### Semb gains some respite

THE national team's World Cup qualifying victories over Wales in September – their first in nine group games – and Armenia earlier this month provided some respite for beleaguered coach Nils Johan Semb.

He had come in for some fierce media criticism after overseeing Norway's dismal campaign but team captain Henning Berg voiced his admiration for the way the coach had handled the pressure.

"Semb simply got on with the job and did not let barking journalists influence his preparations," he said.

Both domestic Cup semi-finals proved exciting affairs, with Bryne's 4-0 defeat of Lillestrom the outstanding result. Lillestrom have had a wonderful League season – they have a good chance of overhauling leaders Rosenborg with four games to play – and were clear favourites to beat relegation candidates Bryne.

However, the latter's new manager, Reine Almquist, a former Swedish international, has turned things around in recent weeks, bringing in some useful players from his homeland. Three of the Swedish contingent got on the scoresheet against Lillestrom, who clearly underestimated their opponents.

Viking beat Odd Grenland 2-1 in the other semi thanks to substitute Jorgen Tengesdal's last-minute goal but only after Odd were reduced to 10 men when Erik Pedersen was sent off.

*Sigurd Odegaard*

Backing the boss...Henning Berg

Mission accomplished...Morten Olsen

**SWEDEN**

## Lars-Tommy go from zeros to heroes

PREVIOUSLY embattled national coaching duo Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback have become deserved heroes after steering Sweden into the 2002 World Cup finals.

Only a year ago the fans were crying for their heads as the team put in a series of unimpressive displays and looked far from certain to qualify.

However, Lars-Tommy, as the pair are known in Sweden, stood firm. Then, with the help of the goalscoring ability of Henrik Larsson and Marcus Allback, they managed to turn the tide, guiding Sweden to top spot in Group 4.

On the home front, Djurgardens probably made the signing of the season by snapping up goalkeeper Andreas Isaksson from Juventus. Norrkoping, meanwhile, are selling their keeper, Eddy Gustafsson, to Molde of Norway.

Former Sweden captain Jonas Thern will coach Halmstads next year.

*Pentti Hietanen*

**FINLAND**

## Everse exits at Jokerit

STRUGGLING FC Jokerit finally lost patience with Dutch coach Jan Everse, sacking him as they faced a tough battle to avoid relegation

Everse's arrogant approach and tendency to absolve himself of blame following defeats won him few friends.

At the top, HJK Helsinki were three points clear with five games left.

Finland's memorable 5-1 World Cup qualifying win over Greece in September means they are still unbeaten at home since June 1999 and provided a great boost to their hopes of progress when the Euro 2004 qualifiers get under way next autumn.

"The most important thing is that we are now getting sell-out crowds and the fans really get behind our team," says national coach Antti Muurinen. "Also, the success of Finnish stars such as Litmanen and Hyypia has has had a positive effect on our other players. Players like Heerenveen's Mika Nurmela have more confidence and purpose."

*Pentti Hietanen*

**ICELAND**

## IA are A1

IA AKRANES, fielding a team of young, home-grown players, defied all pre-season predictions by winning the championship for the first time in five years. IA held their nerve in a thrilling final-day encounter at fellow title challengers IBV, drawing 2-2 to take the League trophy on goal difference.

There was drama at the bottom, too, with Fram avoiding relegation on the final day for the third year running. Their victory over Keflavik consigned Valur, beaten by already-relegated Breidablik, to the drop after only one season back in the top flight.

It was a case of deja vu for Fylkir. In a repeat of last year's campaign, the men from east Reykjavik crashed in the home straight, having led for most of the season. They finished fifth but gained some consolation a week later by beating KA on penalties after a 2-2 draw to lift the FA Cup.

*Rab Christie*


NEXT MONTH

KOREA/JAPAN COUNTDOWN

Everything you need for the World Cup finals draw in Pusan

BAYERN v BOCA

We preview the World Club Cup Final

STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

WORLD SOCCER

DECEMBER ISSUE ON SALE NOVEMBER 16

# President Stojkovic inaugurated

The former international has been elected head of the FA, writes Vladimir Novak

## YUGOSLAVIA

THE battle for political power in Yugoslavian soccer finally came to an end on September 30 when former international Dragan Stojkovic was elected FA president.

His appointment, in succession to 70-year-old Miljan Miljanic, has been seen as a fresh start for the game in the country, and a major boost to the footballing influence within the administration. Former team-mate Dejan Savicevic is the leading candidate to become national coach, while two other internationals, Predrag Mijatovic and Sinisa Mihajlovic, are now members of the FA executive committee.

After the disappointing World Cup qualifying campaign, there was more frustration at club level when all three UEFA Cup representatives went out in the first round. Obilic Belgrade at least gave Danish champions FC Copenhagen a fight in a 4-2 aggregate defeat, but the capital's two big clubs were humiliated. Partizan were thrashed 5-2 by Rapid Wien, while Red Star went out 3-2 to modest Ukrainian side CSKA Kyiv.

Red Star's demise led to the resignation of coach Slavoljub Muslin, under pressure after a poor start to the season. His successor is ex-national team assistant coach Zoran Filipovic.

The coaching switch was overshadowed by the death of 20-year-old Red Star player Vladimir Dimitrijevic, who collapsed during training after suffering a suspected heart attack.

Taking charge...Dragan Stojkovic

## TURKEY

### Gala outgunning Fener

ISTANBUL rivals Galatasaray and Fenerbahce have had sharply contrasting fortunes over recent weeks.

Gala topped the domestic championship after winning six of their first seven games, including a 2-0 victory over Fener, while two wins out of three in the Champions League put them joint top of Group D.

Gala go-getter...Sergen Yalcin

Meanwhile, defending Turkish champions Fenerbahce have been struggling at home and in Europe, with coach Mustafa Denizli already under fire.

However, club captain Ogun Temizkanoglu has denied he is one of Denizli's critics. One newspaper claimed the defender had said the coach was not working the players hard enough in training. But while Ogun admitted saying the players were not working hard enough, he said his comments were intended to be a motivation to his team-mates, not a criticism of Denizli's coaching.

"I meant to indicate that physically we are not yet at the right level," said Ogun. "Success will come when we overcome this deficiency."

Sergen Yalcin has been the star of the show for Gala, scoring the only goal against Nantes in the Champions League and setting up Umit Karan to score the winner at home to Lazio and the consolation goal in the 3-1 defeat away to PSV Eindhoven.

The form of Sergen, known as the Marco Polo of Turkish soccer because he has had so many clubs, led to his recent recall to the national squad.

In the League, Istanbulspor, coached by former Fenerbahce player Aykut Kocaman, were behind Gala only on goal difference after seven games, with notable scalps to date being their other Istanbul rivals, Fener and Besiktas.

*Hasan Cemali*

## GREECE

### Champion start for Panathinaikos

PANATHINAIKOS made an unblemished start to their Champions League campaign, winning their first three games without conceding a goal.

Having gone into the competition as outsiders, the Athenians are now well on course to reach the last 16 following their wins away to Schalke and at home to Mallorca and Arsenal.

Panathinaikos also made a decent start in the Greek championship, drawing 2-2 away to Panionios in their opening game, before thrashing OFI 5-1 at home.

Olympiakos began with two wins as they pursue their sixth straight title. AEK also had a 100 per cent record.

*Lou Economopoulos*

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

### Blazevic in frame for national team post

NATIONAL coach Miso Smajlovic resigned after the team's disappointing fourth-place finish in World Cup qualifying Group 7, raising the prospect that former Croatia boss Miroslav Blazevic, born in Bosnia, could take over. He is currently in charge of Iran, but may accept the challenge back home after the 2002 World Cup.

Other names in the frame are Sturm Graz coach Ivica Osim – though he recently turned down offers from Hamburg and Sarajevo – and free agent Aleksandar Ristic, who has been in charge of a number of German clubs.

At home, defending champions Zeljeznicar, now coached by Osim's son, Anel, topped the table after eight rounds.

*Zdravko Reic*

## SLOVENIA

### Primorje set the pace

ONLY five of the 12 coaches in place at the start of the season remained after 10 rounds of League games, but the biggest sensation has been the form of Primorje Ajdovscina.

They began the campaign as rank outsiders, but led second-placed Maribor by three points with almost a third of the season gone.

Primorje's rise is in large part down to new Croatian coach Ivan Buljan, a former player with Hajduk Split and Hamburg. He is already being touted as successor to national team coach Srecko Katanec.

The club coaching changes are: Smartno – Bojan Prasnikar replaced

Drago Kostanjsek; Rudar – Vojislav Simeunovic replaced Danko Tomazic; Mura – Luka Bonacic replaced Dusan Savic; Korotan – Milos Soskic resigned; Triglav – Milan Radosavljevic replaced Bojan Bevac; Nova Gorica – Andrej Pini replaced Filip Mendas; Domzale – Borce Sredojevic resigned.

*Zdravko Reic*

## MACEDONIA

### Reprieve for Micevski and Hristov

NATIONAL team coach Gjore Jovanovski included ex-captain Toni Micevski and Georgi Hristov in the squad for the World Cup qualifier against Slovakia, having previously dropped them for disciplinary reasons after the friendly with Qatar in July.

League champions Sloga Jugomagnat face Second Division Tikves in the national Cup quarter-finals. The other pairings are Cementarnica 55 v Sileks, Karaorman v Pobeda, and Vardar v Osogovo.

*Michel Stojmanovski*

## CROATIA

### Olic shoots Zagreb to the top

FC ZAGREB were the surprise League leaders after nine rounds, having been in the shadow of Hajduk Split and Dinamo Zagreb for so many years.

Their star to date has been 11-goal forward Ivica Olic. The 21-year-old began his career at Marsonia, failed to get a real run when moving to Hertha Berlin as a teenager, and then returned to Marsonia. From there he joined Zagreb but seems certain to leave for western Europe by the end of the year.

Fifth-placed Rijeka look set to receive a financial boost after Slavica Ecclestone, wife of Formula One motor racing supremo Bernie Ecclestone, announced her desire to buy the club. Slavica, born in Rijeka, says she would like to do something for her home town.

Meanwhile, international striker Silvio Maric, now at FC Porto, faces a £1.3m lawsuit brought by his former fiancee, Tatjana Mrduljas, who claims she gave up her career as a model to devote herself to Maric, who then abandoned her.

*Zdravko Reic*

## CYPRUS

### Walker takes a walk

APOEL NICOSIA sacked Welsh coach Mike Walker after the team's 3-2 League defeat at Anorthosis.

Walker was already under pressure following poor pre-season results. The former Everton and Norwich manager has been replaced by Dutch-Greek Eugen Gerrard, the ex-OFI Crete coach and AEK Athens technical director.

Three teams changed their bosses before the season kicked off. Dusan Mitosevic succeeded Stavros Papadopoulos at AEK, Ilie Dumitrescu took over from Spas Jevisov at Alki and former Liverpool player Ronnie Whelan replaced Andreas Mouskallis at Apollon Limassol.

*Soulis Theodosiou*

Domestic trouble...Silvio Maric

## MALTA

### Hibernians hit rest for six

HIBERNIANS made a lightning start to the season, six straight wins putting them six points clear and on course for their first championship since 1994-95.

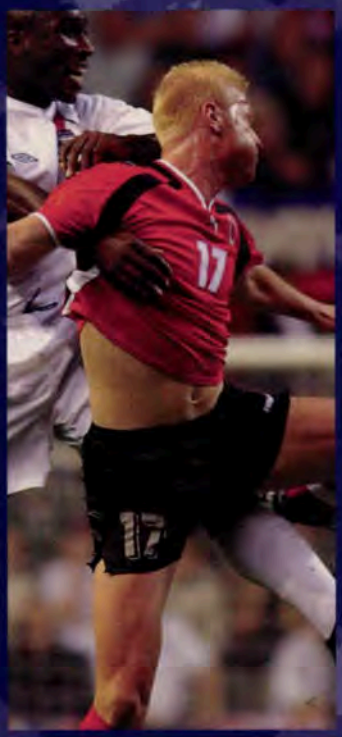
Sliema's Yugoslav striker Danilo Doncic scored 11 times in his first five games, setting himself up to top his Maltese League record of 32, set in 1996-97.

Valletta, who made a clean sweep of trophies last term, are struggling. Bulgarian coach Krassimir Manolov quit for personal reasons and has been replaced by compatriot Georgi Deanov.

*Domenico Aquilina*

# Pro-file Igli Tare

## Big Albanian making his presence felt at Brescia



NOT many players manage to upstage Roberto Baggio. But the Italian's Albanian team-mate at Brescia, Igli Tare, has done just that.

On the opening day of the season the giant forward made headlines with a pair of headed goals in his side's 2-2 home draw with Milan. And he proved he was not just a threat in the air a fortnight later when left- and right-foot finishes paved the way for a 3-1 win at Torino.

Tare, who joined Brescia from Kaiserslautern in February, is a rare example of an Albanian success story in Italy. Those four goals from his first two games this term put him top of the Serie A scoring chart, the first time an Albanian had achieved the feat since Riza Lushta for Juventus way back in 1941-42. "I'm happy to have already equalled my tally for Brescia last season, but it's early days and there's still a lot to do," says Tare. "I needed time to settle in here but now I'm showing everyone I know how to play with my feet as well as my head.

"At Brescia I've found the ideal sporting environment. It's a dream to be playing alongside Robi Baggio. I've never seen a player like him.

"All I'm trying to do is to make a positive contribution. The only way to get on is not to fear anyone. Playing in Serie A is a big responsibility. I feel like the ambassador of all Albanians and am hoping not to disappoint them."

Tare is wise not to get carried away. He probably would have started the season on the bench if record signing Luca Toni had not suffered an ankle injury, and the Albanian must remember only too well that many fans gave him a cool reception when he joined Brescia.

Who could blame the doubters? Tare had done relatively little during seven years in Germany – apart from 24 goals for Second Division Fortuna Dusseldorf (1997-99) – and he was almost permanently on the bench at Kaiserslautern, whom he joined in the summer of 1999.

The Brescia decision-makers nonetheless saw something in him and their intuition seems to have paid dividends. "Tare fits the bill for us," says coach Carlo Mazzone. "I wanted a front man of great physical presence who is strong in the air and knows how to play with his back to goal – and now I have one.

"We took a chance on Tare and he is repaying us. He's an intelligent boy, able to speak four or five languages, applies himself very well and is deservedly reaping the fruits of all his hard work."

*Nick Bidwell*

### Fact file

**Club** Brescia (Ita)
**Country** Albania
**Born** July 25, 1973, in Viora
**Previous clubs** Partizan Tirana, VfR Mannheim (Ger), Sudwest Ludwigshafen (Ger), Karlsruhe (Ger), Fortuna Dusseldorf (Ger), Kaiserslautern (Ger)
**International debut** April 1997, v Germany
**International caps** 32 (3 goals)

# Challengers close in as Spartak struggle

Victor Gusev on an unusually tight finish to the League championship

## RUSSIA

MOSCOW SPARTAK, championship winners for the past nine years, were facing a strong challenge for this season's title as the final run-in got underway. City rivals Lokomotiv, who look to have their strongest ever side, lay just two points behind Spartak with five games to play, with the rapidly progressing Zenit St Petersburg a further two points back.

Oleg Romantsev's Spartak squad lack their usual confidence, a fact that is largely explained by their huge goalkeeping problem and some very poor displays in defence.

Having sold Russian national team keeper Alexander Filimonov to Kyiv Dynamo and had Ukrainian international Maxym Levytskyi ruled out with injury, Spartak were left with young Maxim Kabanov. He has had to face strikers of the calibre of Giovane Elber in the Champions League, and there is little wonder that the 18-year-old has made some crucial mistakes, both in Europe and domestically. Even so, Kabanov has proved his potential by making a number of key saves.

The goalkeeping situation has been aggravated by a series of defensive errors. Gifted Macedonian libero Igor Mitrevski and his partners have conspired to allow Spartak to concede an unprecedented number of goals – an average of 2.5 per game in recent matches.

Signs of Spartak's unusual weakness have no doubt boosted the confidence of Lokomotiv, who have tended to overrate their great opponents in recent seasons and lost the League race in the final lap. Yuri Semin's well-balanced team are headed by classy international goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatullin, prolific Nigerian striker James Obiorah and 18-year-old playmaker Marat Izmailov (see profile, right).

Zenit, meanwhile, are one of the fastest and fittest teams in the League. Unusually, in these times of massive player imports, coach Yuri Morozov has built his squad mainly around home-grown talents.

Defensive lapses...Spartak's Igor Mitrevski

The St Petersburg side's good form was exemplified by their recent 6-1 win over CSKA Moscow, a result that led to the departure of CSKA coach Pavel Sadirin. His replacement is Alexander Kuznetsov.

The three-way challenge for the title has given the championship a new complexion, since it has lacked true competition for almost a decade.

In the domestic League, Dynamo and Shakhtar Donetsk were both unbeaten after nine rounds, with the latter ahead by two points.

Omar Mishkov, who played for newly-promoted Poligraftekhnika, has died after a car accident. His death follows that of CSKA Moscow keeper Serhii Perkhun, reported last month. Both players were part of the Ukraine youth team who finished third at the 1994 European Championship.

*Oleg Zadernovsky*

## POLAND

### Hero Engel keeps his feet on the ground

THE national team and coach Jerzy Engel have been lauded as heroes after winning through to next year's World Cup with two games to spare.

Poland's 3-0 victory over Norway in Chorzow clinched their progress to the finals for the first time since 1986, and even the 4-1 hammering away to Belarus four days later offered Engel a salutary lesson. "Now we know well that during the World Cup there will be no time for any victory celebration before the next game," he said.

Even so, the coach recognised that the players' concentration was bound to lapse after qualification had been confirmed. "After our victory over Norway everybody in the country wanted to meet with my players, to talk and congratulate them. It was absolutely impossible to keep them in isolation," Engel asserted.

In the League, champions Wisla led Group A after 10 games, heading Odra Wodzislaw on goal difference. It was the same situation in the other group, with Amica Wronki and Pogon Szczecin in the top spots.

Leszek Miller, a leading figure in the left-wing SLD party, who won the parliamentary elections in September, has helped his favourite club Widzew Lodz to find a new sponsor. The deal, with a building company, should save Widzew from bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, Grzegorz Lato, top scorer at the 1974 World Cup, is now a member of parliament having stood as an SLD candidate at the elections.

*Dariusz Kurowski*

Boss wants a word...Laszlo Bodnar

## UKRAINE

### Dynamo suffer language difficulties

KYIV DYNAMO coach Valerii Lobanovskyi has blamed language difficulties for his side's poor start to the Champions League campaign.

Dynamo drew 2-2 at home to Borussia Dortmund before suffering defeats away to Boavista (3-1) and Liverpool (1-0) in their first games to leave them bottom of Group B.

"You know our team are totally unbalanced. We need time to make this generation of Dynamo footballers competitive," claimed Lobanovskyi. "At first I have to learn everything about my players. But how can I know the players if they can't speak Russian? How can I prepare them psychologically if they do not understand the coach?

"Take as an example Hungarian defender Laszlo Bodnar. He has flaws in his tactical education. I need to speak to him. But in what language? Bodnar is quite good when it comes to initiating attacks, but not so good defensively."

Dynamo have also been suffering because of a number of gaffes by Russian goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov. His mistakes clearly deprived Dynamo of points in the matches against Dortmund and Boavista, but he remains first choice because he is the only experienced keeper in the current squad.

## AUSTRIA

### Jara's departure leaves Tirol in limbo

WHAT does the future hold for defending champions FC Tirol now that highly influential coach Kurt Jara has been lured away by ailing German side Hamburg?

Jara will definitely be a hard act to follow. Under his inspired stewardship, Tirol have won the last two domestic League titles and are again setting the pace this season. They were unbeaten in their opening 11 games and set a new national record of 1084 minutes for the amount of time played without conceding a goal.

"It was a real shame to finally let one in," said Tirol keeper Marc Ziegler after his long series of clean sheets came to an end in the 2-1 win at Bregenz. "But I only have to look at us on top of the table and all's right with the world."

As for new Rapid Wien coach Lothar Matthaus, he might be wishing he was somewhere else. The former German international won just one of his first four League games in charge – a 2-0 victory over SV Ried – and the sharpening of knives can already be heard.

A coaching change has already occurred at Grazer AK, who have appointed former Dutch national team coach Thijs Libregts to replace Werner Gregoritsch. He stepped down after Grazer lost their UEFA Cup first round tie against Utrecht.

*Nick Bidwell*

Hard act to follow...Kurt Jara

### Round-up

LJUBKO PETROVIC has parted company with **BULGARIAN** champions Levski Sofia after failing to take the club into the group stages of the Champions League. It was Petrovic's second spell in charge of the team following a brief time as coach of China's Shanghai Shenhua.

The coaches of two other Bulgarian sides have also departed. Petar Zehtinski has been replaced by Yanko Dinkov at struggling Marek, while Mihail Velchev stepped down at bottom-placed Chernomorets Bourgas.

**BELARUS'S** Dinamo Minsk have appointed former USSR forward Georgi Kondratyev as coach, to replace the sacked Alexander Piskarev.

Vladimir Veber has resigned from his post at Zimbru Chisinau of **MOLDOVA** following a 3-2 home defeat by champions Serif Tiraspol. Zimbru had earlier been knocked out of the UEFA Cup preliminary round by Turkey's Gaziantepspor.

Former defender Rafael Galstyan has taken the reins at his old club Ararat Yerevan of **ARMENIA**, with the previous coach, Arkadiy Andreasyan, now acting as club chairman. Galstyan has enjoyed considerable success as a coach, guiding Zvartnots, Kasakh and Armenikum to the Armenian top flight.

Viaceslavas Sukristovas is the new coach of **LITHUANIA'S** Zalgiris Vilnius. He replaces Eugenijus Riabovas, who was sacked with the club trailing champions FBK Kaunas in the domestic League.

*Michael Bowesfield*

## Pro-file Marat Izmailov

# Lokomotiv Moscow's much-in-demand teenage midfielder

THE emergence of teenage Lokomotiv Moscow midfielder Marat Izmailov – one of the most exciting prospects to come out of Russia for many a long year – has caused a surprising amount of friction.

National team coach Oleg Romantsev and Under-21 boss Valery Gazzayev have allegedly clashed over who has first call on the services of the brilliant 19-year-old, while Lokomotiv coach Yuri Semin voiced his disapproval when Izmailov made his senior international debut in a friendly against Greece in August.

"With Izmailov playing for both the national team and the Under-21s, it is a serious problem," said Semin. "I think it's too much for him to compete at two international levels and play for us in the Champions League and Russian League. How can someone so young possibly play so often, especially since he puts in so much work on the pitch? In my opinion, he should not have been called up for the senior side just yet."

But the intransigent Romantsev was never going to listen, given that Izmailov had been in exceptional form for title-chasing Lokomotiv throughout 2001. The national coach had absolutely no qualms about blooding him, and his appearance against Greece made Izmailov the third-youngest player in Russian national team history, after Vladimir Beschastnykh and Vladislav Radimov.

The teenager's ball-playing ability, intelligence, eye for goal and versatility – he can operate as a playmaker or in attack – could simply not be put on ice, and Izmailov looked in his element during substitute appearances against Greece and Slovenia and his first start, a 3-0 World Cup win in the Faroe Islands. However, don't ask anyone at Torpedo Moscow what they think of Izmailov's success. He learnt all the tricks of the trade at their excellent football academy only to be lured away by Lokomotiv last year.

Given Izmailov's recent form, a move to a top western European club is already in his mind, with Serie A a favoured destination.

"I've been a big fan of the Italian League for as long as I can remember," says the teenager. "It's still the best League in the world and one I'd love to be part of.

"Even so, that's a way off. At the moment I'm concentrating on winning the Russian title and doing well for my club in the Champions League. The management at Lokomotiv and I have an agreement. I will only leave when I'm mature and strong enough."

*Nick Bidwell*

### Fact file

**Club** Lokomotiv Moscow
**Country** Russia
**Born** September 21, 1982, in Moscow
**Previous club** Torpedo Moscow
**International debut** August 2001, v Greece
**International caps** 4 (0 goals)
**Honours** Russian Cup 2001

# Racing – the shape of things to come?

The recently bankrupt club are back on top, writes Eric Weil

## ARGENTINA

Close call...Boca keeper Oscar Cordoba thwarts River's Martin Cardetti during the recent 1-1 derby draw

HAS the moment of truth finally arrived for Argentinian clubs? Eight games into the closing championship, the table seems to indicate it.

Racing Club, top by three points, are the only club in the top division to have been taken over by a company and run on commercial lines.

In the close season they brought in 10 new players, all but one coming on loan, so that very little transfer money was spent. But they were chosen wisely, helped by the fact that, unusually, coach Reinaldo Merlo, a former River Plate midfielder, was given the final say on who to bring in.

Merlo now has a team of fighters, who can battle for narrow victories rather than play pretty football. But it is certainly effective – Racing won six and drew two of their first eight games.

They also have the best defence, conceding just four goals, with keeper Gaston Sessa looking the likeliest squad member to make it to international level.

Although Racing still have debts of £43million and were bankrupt a couple of years ago, the new management is ensuring that the club are no longer losing money and the players are paid on time – not the case at other clubs.

Colon Santa Fe, the only club in the top flight without debts because of their good management, were third, four points off the top and the only other unbeaten club.

Between them and Racing lay the surprise of the season – Belgrano Cordoba – who have had to fight off relegation by winning a play-off for the past two seasons and have not significantly strengthened their team for the current tournament.

It is therefore ironic that while Belgrano have made easily their best start to a championship, they have just been declared bankrupt.

However, the club are being allowed to continue playing under a similar ruling applied to Racing Club, and may also end up being run by a company.

Opening championship winners San Lorenzo extended their winning run to 13 games and unbeaten run to 17 before losing twice in a row, which caused them to slip to ninth, having been on top early on.

San Lorenzo have been hit by financial problems, with the players and Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini owed wages. Pellegrini says he will not see out his contract (ending mid-2002) unless the situation changes.

Argentina's two biggest clubs, River Plate and Boca Juniors, lay fifth and 10th respectively, five and eight points adrift of Racing.

Boca started poorly, failing to win any of their first four games, though they picked up with the return from injury of midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme and took 10 points from their next four games.

River Plate began well, with newly acquired Esteban Cambiasso and former youth team player Andres D'Alessandro excelling in midfield, but could not keep up the good work.

River need a leader on the field, but principal candidate, veteran Leonardo Astrada, is out injured. At the same time, the club are selling one of their best defenders, Colombian international Mario Yepes, to Genoa, although he is not keen to leave and they have no adequate replacement.

River drew 1-1 at home in the derby clash with Boca but should have put the game away before half-time. Having created numerous chances, only Cambiasso managed to convert one. Boca then fought back in the second half, equalising through Walter Gaitan with seven minutes to go.

On the international front, Argentina want to 'retire' the No 10 shirt after the World Cup qualifying games in honour of Diego Maradona, who will wear it for the last time in his farewell match in Buenos Aires on November 10 between the national team and an All-Star world XI.

The South American confederation have agreed to Argentina's request but FIFA's views are as yet unknown.

## BRAZIL

### Edmundo shown the door by Cruzeiro

EDMUNDO has been sacked by Cruzeiro after just three months following a dismal performance against his old club Vasco da Gama.

The Animal, who returned to Brazil after a recent unhappy spell with Napoli in Italy, infuriated club president Zeze Perela by saying before the game that he did not want to score against Vasco, then by missing a penalty during it.

Edmundo, sent off on his debut for Cruzeiro, never settled down at the club.

Veteran striker Romario scored a hat-trick for Vasco in the same game and then grabbed another four days later in the 5-1 Brazilian championship win over his old club Flamengo. The performances raised calls for the 35-year-old's international recall.

Flamengo's veteran coach Mario Zagallo was spared the sack after the humiliating defeat but was told by club directors that the team had to train harder.

Atletico Mineiro led the 28-team competition at the halfway stage; the top eight qualify for the quarter-finals.

*Brian Homewood*

# Argentina's mystery manager pleasing the crowds at last

A FEW MINUTES before Argentina kicked off their September World Cup qualifier against Brazil, the Buenos Aires crowd finally gave in. For the first time in coach Marcelo Bielsa's three-year reign, the fans in the Monumental stadium chanted their support for him.

Bielsa's team have sailed through World Cup qualification, playing attractive, attacking football – so why has he had to wait so long for popular approval?

Part of the answer lies in the fact that almost all his squad make their living in Europe. Now, with the points on the board, it is easy to agree with midfielder Marcelo Gallardo when he declares himself "enchanted with the mixture of European dynamism and Argentinian technique".

For a long time, however, Bielsa had to put up with barbs that there was too much of the former, that European-style hard running had taken the place of traditional artistry – a natural response from a proud football nation embittered at not seeing its idols on a weekly basis.

If press and fans were feeling the distance from the players, they were a chasm away from the coach. Bielsa had never taken charge of either of Argentina's big two club sides, River Plate and Boca Juniors. Instead, his coaching career had begun at Newell's Old Boys, based in his home city of Rosario, where he found considerable success before moving on to spend five years in Mexico.

On his return he gained his sole experience in charge of a Buenos Aires club, enjoying a brief but victorious spell with Velez Sarsfield, and had just started work with Espanyol in Barcelona when his country called in September 1998.

Bielsa was something of a mystery to the Argentinian public. Now, more than three years later, some feel that they still only vaguely know him. Bielsa is no self-publicist. But with his team among the favourites to win in Korea/Japan next year, the world will have the pleasure of getting to know the man behind the worried frown, who spends entire games prowling the touchline.

His tiny strides and pensive manner make it look as if he has just dropped his house key. But, in fact, one of football's great obsessives is thinking of ways to unlock the opposing defence.

Bielsa, born in 1955 into a family of lawyers, did not follow his brother into political activism against Argentina's then military dictatorship. Instead, the young Marcelo took up football and, as a ball-playing centre-back, threw everything into the quest to be good enough to make it in Newell's first team. However, after just three games he dropped down the divisions, and quickly gave up. Instead, Bielsa switched his focus to becoming a top coach.

"Why don't you stay in the hotel with the rest of the team?" he was once asked by one of his players. "Because while you are sleeping I'm thinking of ways to improve the team," he replied. It is the quintessential Bielsa quote. He is football's tortured soul, tossing and turning in a quest for tactical solutions.

It is hardly surprising that he has picked up the nickname 'El Loco'. But his form of madness is less flamboyant than that associated with Latin American firebrands. Bielsa's eccentricity is rooted in his brooding obsession. At press conferences his answers can vary from the monosyllabic to lengthy philosophical discourses. But always he stares at a fixed spot in space, almost as if he is talking to himself.

"He keeps his distance from the players," says Diego Simeone, "but he has such strength of personality that he quickly communicates what he wants. Out of respect I wouldn't call him 'loco'. But yes, he is different."

With his baggy tracksuit and unkempt hair, Bielsa seems at odds with the garish consumer society unleashed by former President Menem. He even manages to be above the philosophical fight that for years has surrounded the national team. In one corner is Cesar Luis Menotti, the pavement cafe radical who won the 1978 World Cup. In the other is Carlos Bilardo, the brutal pragmatist who won the 1986 World Cup.

Football as art versus football as conflict. For Bielsa it is both. "I spent 16 years listening to them," he says. "For eight years I listened to Menotti, a coach who emphasises inspiration. For eight years Bilardo, who emphasises functionalism. And I took the best from both."

Bilardo approves of Bielsa; with the results Argentina have achieved the arch-pragmatist could hardly do otherwise. Menotti also has kind words, but draws an interesting distinction. "Bielsa has ideas and knows how to put them into practice," he says. "But he thinks football is predictable and I don't."

It is an implied criticism of Bielsa's faith in systems. Menotti believes the current 3-3-1-3 formation puts gifted players in a straitjacket. Bielsa will have none of it. He can speak for hours on how a tactically disciplined team can make it easier for the flair player to improvise.

"The main idea," he stresses, "is that we keep the pitch covered. Because if there is freedom and everyone goes to the same space then this freedom becomes a defect rather than a virtue."

Bielsa was surprised to be offered the Argentina job. He feared that his methods would be difficult to implant at international level, that his intense tactical work needed the length of time only available to a club coach.

His solution has been to transform Argentina into a club side. He was lucky enough to inherit

an extraordinarily talented group of players, groomed by his predecessor, Daniel Passarella, and in terms of personnel he has made few changes. Just 27 players were used in the first 15 World Cup qualifiers.

Before the campaign started he assembled his squad in Europe for friendlies and training camps and began to build a team spirit any club would be proud of. Recently, with qualification assured, players could be forgiven for greeting a suspension as a blessing in disguise – a chance to miss out on a long, tiring journey back from Europe. Instead, they are quick to show their dismay. The players are part of a successful team and are clearly enjoying it.

Bielsa has been instrumental in creating this positive atmosphere. He may never seek to be the players' friend, but he has won their respect with his tactical knowledge, willingness to listen and capacity to admit his errors.

As a result he has overcome initial doubts and won the squad over to his philosophy. Under Passarella, Argentina were happiest on the break. Now they come forward in waves and look to play in their opponents' half.

"Never stop attacking," says Gallardo. "That's what the coach asks from us wherever the game is played." It is the approach Bielsa will take to Japan and South Korea, strengthened by the knowledge that the Argentinian public will be behind him as he prowls up and down the line.

*Tim Vickery*

# Danubio pip Big Two

Da Silva is the hero of the opening championship finale. Eric Weil reports

**URUGUAY**

MODEST Montevideo club Danubio won this season's opening championship, breaking the stranglehold of Nacional and Penarol on Uruguay's League silverware.

Danubio clinched the title with a 1-0 victory away to Fenix in the final game, the goal coming from former international Ruben Da Silva. Curiously, Da Silva scored the clinching goal the last time Danubio took a title – in 1988 – before his career took him to Boca Juniors and Rosario Central in Argentina, and back to Nacional in his homeland. He rejoined Danubio at the end of last season.

The club, now coached by former Boca Juniors midfielder Ariel Krasousky, refurbished their little stadium this year to hold 12,000, allowing them to face the Big Two clubs at home. Danubio have also benefited from their renowned youth system, which has produced the likes of Ruben Sosa, Alvaro Recoba and Marcelo Zalayeta over the years.

Penarol finished a point behind Danubio after beating Nacional 2-1 in the big derby on the final day. Carlos Buenos, normally only a reserve, scored both Penarol's goals, but celebrated the second by making obscene gestures to Nacional fans, for which he was sent off.

Three weeks earlier, 20-year-old Ruben Rodriguez had hit the headlines after scoring an eight-minute hat-trick on his debut for Rocha, who are playing in the eight-team relegation pool.

Winning smile...Da Silva is mobbed by Danubio fans

## Plug pulled on Mercosur Cup

CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, has predictably announced that the current Mercosur Cup tournament will be the last.

The competition, instituted four years ago for the most popular teams in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile, was tailored for television. Indeed, its instigators were two major South American TV companies – Brazil's Traffic and Argentina's Torneos y Competencias. However, they made a big mistake in channelling coverage mainly through pay-TV, which has a poor take-up across the continent.

The development of the tournament was further hampered by the clubs' refusal to make the competition a priority, despite the substantial prize money on offer – £15million annually. They often put out under-strength teams, a policy that in itself dampened interest among viewers. In this current tournament, for instance, San Lorenzo sent a reserve team to play Flamengo in Brazil despite needing to win to make certain of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Another negative aspect of the tournament was that the clubs participated by invitation, meaning that it has not had the same competitive edge as the Libertadores Cup, even though most of the same clubs participated.

A further nail in the coffin was the decision by Brazilian clubs not to participate in future tournaments. Most of the Cup's TV revenue is generated in Brazil; the lack of domestic interest from that country would therefore have put into severe doubt the whole tournament's financial viability.

Even as it is, the tournament has been losing money, and there was even speculation that the 2001 edition would be abandoned midway through because of a delay in CONMEBOL receiving prize money to distribute.

This cash crisis stemmed from the fact that sports TV company PSN fell behind in payments for TV rights for the tournament coverage, since they themselves had not been receiving instalments from the cable and pay-TV companies using their feed.

PSN (Pan American Sports Network) are relative newcomers to the television market and had bid high for the rights to the Mercosur Cup, among other sporting events, in order to gain a firm foothold in the market. However, income from advertising, pay-TV, etc has dropped and the company are not recovering their outlay as expected.

*Eric Weil*

**SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP**

## Ban lifted on Olimpia

FIFA has lifted the international ban on **PARAGUAY'S** Olimpia after the club withdrew their lawsuits against three former players and a former president.

The world body had imposed the suspension after stating that the suits concerned soccer matters, which, according to FIFA rules, should be dealt with by soccer tribunals.

Despite the reprieve, the problems have been mounting for Olimpia. They finished bottom of the closing championship, were forced to watch Asuncion rivals Cerro Porteno carry off the title, and had 40-year-old striker Esteban Gonzalez banned for life!

Gonzalez, known as 'Loco' because of his crazy on-field antics, received his punishment after hitting a referee who had sent him off in an earlier match.

Violent clashes between fans of **PERUVIAN** champions Universitario and Alianza Lima left one dead and 17 injured. In the derby game itself, Argentinian striker Martin Villalonga scored both goals in Universitario's 2-1 win. The result left them in fifth place, seven points behind leaders Sporting Cristal and Cienciano in the closing championship.

Meanwhile, Spaniard Bernabe Herraez has taken over from Ivan Brzic as coach of Alianza. It is his first time in charge of a professional team.

In **CHILE**, Santiago Wanderers caused a major upset by beating champions and First Division leaders Universidad de Chile 4-1. A week later their victory away to Palestino put them top of the table with eight matches to go.

Jorge Garces, until recently coach of Wanderers, has been appointed to lead the national team.

Forward Ivan Zamorano has bowed out from international football, his final appearance coming during Chile's 2-1 win over France in Santiago at the start of September.

*Eric Weil*

MEXICO

## Guadalajara revive the good old days

WHILE much attention has been given over to the national team's renewed efforts in the World Cup qualifying campaign in recent weeks, the renaissance of Guadalajara, Mexico's most popular club, has been the focus back home.

Guadalajara were the dominant team in the 1960s, when they won four consecutive League titles and six in total. Now, after years in the doldrums, they are candidates to win the championship once more, and were unbeaten in the first 11 games of the Winter League group stage.

Just two seasons ago Guadalajara were one of the worst teams in the League and were even fighting against relegation at one stage.

The club had signed a five-year contract with a marketing company that appeared to be more interested in making profits than winning League titles. In the process they sold international players such as Joel Sanchez and Paulo Cesar Chavez, but despite the revenue from these deals, still almost went bankrupt.

Finally, club officials took over the management of the team and revamped it by bringing in players from the club's almost forgotten youth school.

Most importantly, Guadalajara hired a new coach, former Argentinian international Oscar Ruggeri, who was familiar with Mexican soccer having played for America in 1992 and 1993 before returning to his homeland to start a new career as a coach.

Ruggeri's team now display all the flair and fire that characterised his own playing career, and he has cleverly anchored his young and inexperienced side by introducing a few veterans, including Carlos Hermosillo.

The Winter League has been badly disrupted by postponements because of international club tournaments such as the Merconorte Cup and the Libertadores Cup preliminary stages. In addition, one team per week have been forced to sit out of domestic League action since the top division comprises 19 teams this season – a stepping stone in the absurd process of increasing the League to 20 teams by 2002. As a result, club owners have desperately been trying to organise friendlies for their blank weekends to get money into the till.

The coaching waters have been far from calm, with nine coaches already removed. The main casualties have been Alberto Guerra (fired by newly-promoted La Piedad), Alfio Basile (another failure at America), and former international coach Miguel Mejia Baron (Pumas UNAM).

Those coaches coming in include Carlos Babington, returning to Leon, Uruguayan Hugo Fernandez (Irapuato), Manuel Lapuente (Atlante), Argentinian Miguel Angel Lopez (Atletico Celaya), and, above all, Hugo Sanchez, back at Pumas UNAM after been fired by them a few months ago.

Flair and fire...Oscar Ruggeri

Champions Santos, with forward Jared Borgetti once again in fine form, Pachuca, Atletico Morelia and Toluca are having excellent campaigns, although it is too early to determine the teams that will accompany Guadalajara into the play-offs.

*Carlos Ramirez*

● Trinidad & Tobago international Mickey Trotman died of injuries sustained in a car crash in the capital, Port-of-Spain, just four days before he was due to play against Honduras in a World Cup qualifier.

## Pro-file Juan Arango

### Attacking midfielder behind Venezuela's surprising success

WHEN the fixtures were drawn up for South America's World Cup qualification campaign, Brazil never expected to go into the last game still scratching for points. And they certainly did not anticipate losing any sleep over playing traditional whipping boys Venezuela in that fixture.

But 18 months is a long time in football. It is indeed possible that the four-times world champions might not have their qualification secured before November 14. And after three straight wins Venezuela are the mouse that roared. In fact, they are threatening to become a more fearsome beast on a permanent basis.

Should the unthinkable happen and Venezuela deny Brazil a place in the World Cup, then Juan Arango is the man most likely to bring it about. The tall, left-footed attacking midfielder has been fundamental to his team's sudden rise.

Full of confidence and with a rich repertoire of tricks, Arango is as capable of setting up play for his colleagues with his deft passing as he is of applying the finishing touch with his booming shots.

An early move to Mexican football did wonders for his development. "It changed my life," he says, "and prepared me for the kind of things that are happening for me now with the national team."

A spell under a former Real Madrid coach was particularly important to the youngster. "I fell into the hands of a great maestro, Benito Floro, to whom I owe a great deal," Arango states. "He said that if he were hired by any European club he would take me with him. That really helped my confidence. For reasons such as that, the year 2000 will always stay in my memory."

It has been this year, however, that he truly made the breakthrough at international level. National coach Richard Paez has learnt his lesson from this year's Copa America, when his formation was too optimistic. Now the strikers are pushed wider and the midfield play more compactly, making them harder to play through. The tactical switch also means that there is plenty of space into which Arango can make his forward bursts.

This has brought the best out of the midfielder, though his progress was interrupted by a mystifying red card during Venezuela's recent game against Peru.

The dismissal means that the Monterrey man will have to sit out the next game, at home to Paraguay. But he should be back to jangle Brazilian nerves in mid-November.

*Tim Vickery*

**Fact file**

**Club** Monterrey (Mex)
**Country** Venezuela
**Born** May 17, 1980, in Caracas
**Previous clubs** Nuevo Cadiz, Caracas, Saltillo (Mex)
**International debut** January 1999, v Denmark
**International caps** 17 (3 goals)

# Heavyweights go head-to-head

## Mark Gleeson reviews the draw for the 2002 African Nations Cup finals

SENEGAL and Tunisia, two of Africa's finalists for next year's World Cup, will face each other during the group stage of the upcoming African Nations Cup finals. However, holders Cameroon have been handed a relatively easy draw for the start of the defence of their title.

The draw for the 16-nation event, made in host country Mali, pitted Senegal against Tunisia in Group D, together with 1998 champions Egypt and perennial qualifiers Zambia. Egypt, who were given top-seed status based on their previous Nations Cup finals achievements, were pipped for a World Cup finals berth by the Senegalese.

Group D, inevitably given the 'group of death' tag because of the quality of the teams, will be based in the Malian capital, Bamako.

Cameroon face Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo in Group C, to be played in the provincial town of Sikasso, some four hours' drive from the capital.

Mali, who are making their first finals appearance since 1994, when they were surprise semi-finalists, are pooled with Nigeria, Liberia and Algeria in Group A, which will also be played in Bamako.

South Africa, another of the five African countries headed to the World Cup, face Morocco, Ghana and Burkina Faso in Group B, to be played in Segou.

The tournament kicks off on January 19, with the Final on February 10.

Out for revenge...Egypt, in red, can atone for World Cup elimination by Senegal in Mali next year

**ROUND-UP**

### Cameroon appoint Schafer

WINFRIED SCHAFER, former coach of German club Karlsruhe, has taken over as coach of reigning African champions **CAMEROON**. He is the fourth person to hold the position inside a year.

Elsewhere in **CENTRAL AFRICA**, Eugene Moldovan has been appointed national coach of **CONGO**, while Louis Watunda has returned to the national coach's post in neighbouring **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**. Watunda replaces Russian Yuri Gavrilov.

Taking the helm...Schafer

### EAST AFRICA

**RWANDA** have named Yugoslav Hailad Duksivic as their new national coach.

Two senior **KENYAN** federation officials, including treasurer Levi Obondo, have been fired for alleged corruption.

### NORTH AFRICA

FIFA'S World Cup organising committee has rejected **EGYPT'S** appeal to have their final World Cup qualifier, against Algeria, replayed because their team were pelted with objects during the game in Algiers in July. The tie finished 1-1, ending Egypt's hopes of going to Korea/Japan.

On the domestic scene, Zamalek won the inaugural Super Cup, beating Ghazl El-Mahalla 2-1 in Cairo. German coach Olk Werner has resigned at Tersana.

**ALGERIAN** champions Chabab Belouizdad forfeited an away match against JS Kabylie at the start of the new domestic season saying they were afraid to travel to the Kabylie province. This has been the scene of riots and protests by the indigenous Berber people in recent months.

### SOUTHERN AFRICA

**ZAMBIA'S** Rotson Kilambe has become the first African to be caught for a doping offence and has been suspended by FIFA. He tested positive following the World Cup qualifier against Cameroon in Lusaka in July. The substance in question was undisclosed.

Kaizer Chiefs beat Mamelodi Sundowns on penalties to win **SOUTH AFRICA'S** Top Eight Cup Final.

Gui Kia, of **ANGOLAN** Second Division side Corimba, collapsed and died only seven minutes after the start of a promotion play-off match against Sporting Cabinda.

In **ZIMBABWE**, Shabanie shocked Harare giants Dynamos to win the BP Cup 1-0, becoming the first team from outside the capital to lift the trophy. Dutch coach Clemens Westerhof has quit Dynamos after only two months following a row with the board.

### WEST AFRICA

George Weah has found a new club after miserable spells at Manchester City and Marseille. The **LIBERIAN** has signed for United Arab Emirates side Al Jazira. Weah will be joined by compatriot James Debbah, who has been playing in Greece.

Dyto Lome won a thrilling finish to the championship in **TOGO**, pipping Maranatha Fiokpo by a point.

Mamadou Kante hit a hat-trick as Stade Malien thrashed Mamahira 5-0 in the **MALI** Cup Final.

Baciro Cande has been appointed as the new coach of **GUINEA-BISSAU**.

Argentina-born Ricardo Gaudio is the new national coach in **MAURITANIA**, while Frenchman Bernard Simondi, previously boss of Guinea, is now in charge of **BENIN**, alongside Belgian Rene Taelman.

Argentinian Luis-Oscar Fullone has taken over as national team coach in **BURKINA FASO.**

*Mark Gleeson*

COSAFA CASTLE CUP FINAL

## Flavio breaks the deadlock

ANGOLA won the Cosafa Castle Cup for the second time in three years, defeating defending champions Zimbabwe with a dramatic winner late in the second leg of the Final.

Substitute Flavio scored with just three minutes left to end almost three hours of deadlock. The first leg ended goalless in Luanda, with the same outcome looking likely in the return, in Harare. Then, with time running out, the Petro Atletico player snapped up a loose ball in the penalty area and managed to squeeze his shot past three defenders and Zimbabwean goalkeeper Gift Muzadzi to secure Angola's deserved victory in the annual southern African championship.

Zimbabwe's chances crumbled midway through the second half following the loss of their two key strikers. First, Luke Jukelile went off after twisting his ankle, and minutes later his partner, Benjamin Mwaruwaru, was dismissed for butting Angolan defender Dias Caires.

Mwaruwaru had been brought in to strengthen the Zimbabwean attack, missing a UEFA Cup match for his Swiss club side Grasshopper in the process, but his sending-off in effect cost his team any chance of winning the title.

Down to 10 men, Zimbabwe retreated into defence, presumably hoping to hold out through extra time for a penalty shoot-out. But Flavio's late goal left them no time to recover.

It also brought Angola their second title of 2001, the Under-20s having won the African championship in Ethiopia in February.

The Cosafa Castle Cup has proven a popular competition in the region and the inclusion of Madagascar in next year's tournament means that there are now 12 participating nations.

*Mark Gleeson*

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS CUP

## Holders Zamalek bow out

DEFENDING champions Zamalek are out of the African Cup-winners Cup after a 3-2 aggregate defeat by Club Africain of Tunisia in the quarter-finals.

Ismaili, Egypt's other representatives in the competition, also exited at the same stage, going out on away goals to South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs.

The chances of an all-Egyptian semi-final appeared good after the first legs of the quarter-finals. Zamalek held a slender 1-0 lead going into the return in Tunisia and would have still gone through on away goals had they managed to hold Club Africain's lead to 2-1. But Amdy Marzouki got a third for the Tunisians four minutes from time.

Ismaili had forced a goalless draw with Kaizer Chiefs in Johannesburg, and Abdelhamid Bassiouny put them ahead just before half-time in the return, albeit with a disputed penalty. But Chiefs equalised 10 minutes from time through winger Arthur Zwane and went through on the away goal.

Chiefs now meet Club Africain, while Inter Luanda from Angola play Kumbo Strikers of Cameroon.

Striker Paty scored all the goals as the Angolans won 4-0 at home in the second leg of the quarter-final against Niger Tornadoes of Nigeria to overcome a 1-0 first leg deficit.

Kumbo Strikers overcame Evico of Gabon 3-0 on aggregate, winning a twice-delayed second leg 2-0 in Douala with both goals coming from Etienne Takang.

● JS Kabylie stayed on track in defence of their CAF Cup title after easily disposing of Morocco's Wydad Casablanca in the quarter-finals. The Algerians now play Ivory Coast's Africa Sports. Tunisia's Etoile Sahel reached the other semi with a 3-0 aggregate win over Ajax Cape Town of South Africa. They meet Cotonsport of Cameroon, 3-2 victors over Mozambique's Ferroviario.

*Mark Gleeson*

# Pro-file Victor Agali

## First Germany, now the world for Nigeria's in-form striker

NIGERIA seem to have found a solution to their striking problem in the form of a player already well known in the Bundesliga before his country eventually got round to selecting him.

Victor Agali has scored five times in six games for the Super Eagles this year, emerging to fill a void in the frontline alongside Arsenal forward Nwankwo Kanu, whose strike-rate for his country has been poor in recent years.

Agali's goals put Nigeria back on track for World Cup qualification when, at one stage, it seemed they had little chance of going to Korea/Japan.

The 22-year-old made an immediate impression on the international scene, scoring on his debut in an African Nations Cup qualifier against Zambia in January this year.

But by then Agali was already a seasoned marksman in the German top flight. He was a key factor in helping Hansa Rostock maintain their Bundesliga status for two seasons. By the time Nigeria finally realised his worth, the forward was already on his way to Schalke, the eventual League runners-up having clinched his signature for the current campaign well before the 2000-01 season was over.

The move to the Ruhr valley club means Agali now has a year of UEFA Champions League football plus the African Nations Cup and World Cup finals ahead of him – stages on which to show the talent that is already so familiar to the Germans.

Agali arrived in the country on trial, after a spell at French Second Division side Toulon, where he was playing after failing to make the grade as a teenager at Marseille.

While African triallists are far from uncommon at German clubs, very few succeed in securing a contract. However, the Nigerian's work ethic was impressive, and Hansa signed him up for a bargain £160,000. The Rostock side made a tidy profit indeed when selling him on to Schalke for £3.3million. Last season, Agali was the subject of much transfer speculation as Schalke beat off the challenge of Hertha Berlin for his signature.

"If I wanted to become a better player I had to go to a better club," he said, "and I believe that the development of Schalke into a top team in Europe has not ended yet."

*Mark Gleeson*

### Fact file

**Club** Schalke (Ger)
**Country** Nigeria
**Born** December 29, 1978, in Lagos
**Previous clubs** Nitel Lagos, Marseille (Fra), Toulon (Fra), Hansa Rostock (Ger)
**International debut** January 2001, v Zambia
**International caps** 6 (5 goals)

# Celebrating Antlers on a victory roll

The Kashima side are out in front in the J.League, write Mike Plastow and Michi Ishijima

Return to action...Kashima Antlers' Naoki Soma

## JAPAN

KASHIMA ANTLERS celebrated their 10th anniversary in style with their seventh straight victory since the start of the Second Stage.

The 4-2 win over Nagoya Grampus Eight was the main event of an evening that also included fan weddings on the pitch and special greetings from former stars Zico and Alcindo.

Antlers, who had a mediocre First Stage, are now well on course to take the Second Stage title. They received a further boost with the return to action of World Cup defender Naoki Soma, who has been out with a broken leg.

However, Antlers face competition from First Stage champions Jubilo Iwata, who won six games in a row after their opening day defeat.

The exodus of internationals has continued with the departure of Yokohama F Marinos keeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi to Portsmouth of the English First Division. The 26-year-old will be missed by Yokohama. They began the Second Stage with three straight victories, but failed to win any of their next four encounters, leaving them just two points above the relegation zone in the combined season table.

### Thais equal gold-haul record

THAILAND won the gold medal at the South-east Asian Games for a record-equalling fifth consecutive time with a 1-0 win over Malaysia in the Final in Kuala Lumpur.

The Thais took first place after a glaring error by Malaysian goalkeeper Kamarulzaman Hassan. He gifted the winning goal to Sarawut Treephan with just a minute left on the clock.

Thailand's win equals Myanmar's feat of taking five straight golds, from 1965 to 1973. This time round, Myanmar won bronze after defeating Indonesia 1-0 in the third-place match.

This year's SEA Games were the first to be played with wholly under-23 squads. One of Thailand's young stars, 16-year-old Theerathep Winothai, has now signed for English First Division club Crystal Palace.

*Michael Church*

## NEW ZEALAND

### Central denied the Double

UNIVERSITY-Mount Wellington have won the Chatham Cup for a record-equalling sixth time and, in so doing, deprived Central United of a domestic double.

The latter could consider themselves unlucky having enjoyed the better of the play and lost only after a penalty shoot-out following a 3-3 draw.

However, Central certainly enjoyed good fortune on their run to the championship crown, secured the week before. They beat Miramar Rangers 3-2 in the Final, even though they had finished eight points behind their opponents during the League stage of the tournament.

Central, who had gone behind to Miramar midway through the first half, hit back, with a Glen Eie hat-trick sealing the tie.

*Paul Moon*

## Round-up

### ASIA

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** club Al Jazira pulled off a major transfer coup by clinching the signature of former World Player of the Year George Weah, on a one-year contract. The Liberian signed up after getting only limited first-team football at Marseille. He is joined at Al Jazira by compatriot international James Debbah.

In **CHINA**, title challengers Shanghai Shenhua have signed veteran Brazilian defender Junior Baiano from Vasco da Gama. The 31-year-old is the biggest name to join the Chinese League since it turned professional in 1994.

Jazira journey...George Weah

Former Iran coach Jalal Talebi has been named as the new head coach of **SYRIA**, replacing Yugoslavian Bozidar Vukotic.

The **VIETNAM** federation has said it will not renew the contract of Brazilian Edson Dido Silva after he failed to take the national Under-23 side to the semi-finals of the South-east Asian Games.

Vietnamese League champions Song Lam Nghe An have pulled out of the Asian Club Championship because of financial problems.

**KOREAN** international defender Choi Sung-yong has signed for Asian Club Champions Suwon Bluewings from Austria's Linz ASK.

Abahani clinched the **BANGLADESH** Premier League title by defeating arch-rivals Mohammadan SC 2-0.

*Michael Church & Azam Mahmood*

### OCEANIA

Canberra Cosmos have become the fourth club in a year to drop out of **AUSTRALIA'S** National Soccer League after Soccer Australia ejected them for failing to pay their affiliation fee.

Cosmos had been expelled from the League in June because of concerns over their economic viability, only to be reinstated after receiving substantial support at grassroots level. This time, however, there was no reprieve.

Ba won the **FIJIAN** League without suffering a single defeat, finishing seven points clear of Olympians. The once-powerful Lautoka surprisingly finished bottom of the table and were facing a play-off against Second Division champions Seaqaqa to retain their top-flight status.

In the **COOK ISLANDS**, Nikao Sokattack won the season's first honour when defeating favourites Avatiu 3-1 in the Air New Zealand Cup Final.

*Paul Moon*

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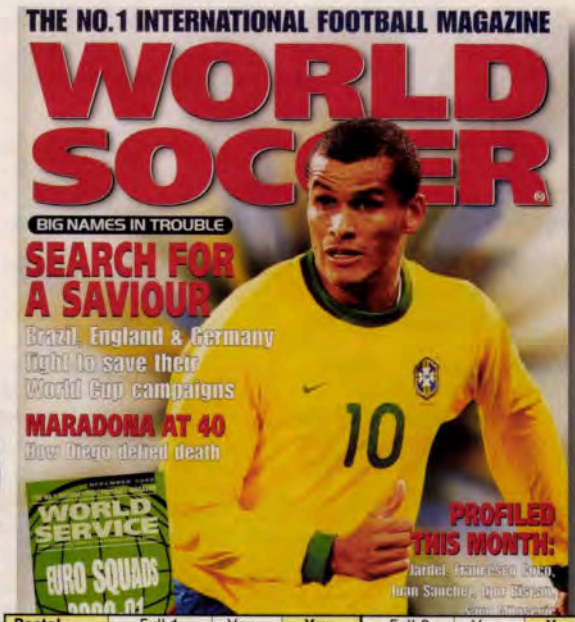


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7 Inter Bratislava striker who recently joined Middlesbrough (6)
9 Former Liverpool defender of Leeds and Scotland (6)
10 Dutch coach who has revitalised Borussia Monchengladbach (5)
11 Former Albanian national boss who later managed Teuta Durres (5)
14 Shakhtar Donetsk defender going to the World Cup finals with Senegal (6)
16 £25m Czech transferred from Lazio to Juventus (6)
17 Partizan Belgrade midfielder and captain (4)
18 Juve's Argentinian forward loaned to Zaragoza last season (8)

**DOWN**
2 Young Cameroon midfield man nurtured at Nantes (6)
3 Schalke midfielder who made his debut for Germany this year (5)
4 Saudi club champions now coached by Osvaldo Ardiles (2,7)
5 UEFA Cup entrants from Borisov in Belarus (4)
8 Tunisia's African Champions League contenders (9)
12 Careres ------ Cesar, Paraguayan who joined Portugal's Campomaiorense (6)
13 West African national side currently coached by Rene Taelman (5)
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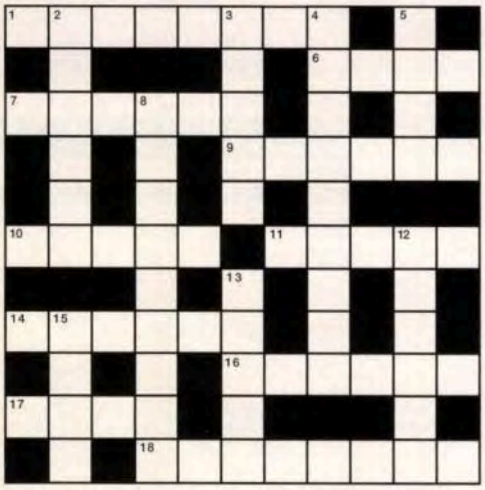

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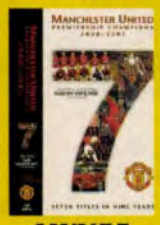


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## Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'I'm astonished that leading professional footballers could be prepared to jeopardise their physical well-being in so gross and crass a way'

Five-hour spree...Chelsea's John Terry and Frank Lampard

# Last orders for British drinking culture

"WORK," said Oscar Wilde, "is the curse of the drinking classes." Many of our footballers would surely agree with him.

Squalid indeed was the tale of the five-hour drinking binge by Chelsea footballers in and around Heathrow airport after their trip to play Levski in Sofia had been aborted.

Jody Morris (alas a recidivist when it comes to embarrassing incidents), Eidur Gudjohnsen, Frank Lampard junior, John Terry, of Chelsea, and Frank Sinclair, now of Leicester but formerly at Stamford Bridge, allegedly upset a number of already shocked Americans, shaken by the horrific events in New York City and Washington, with their drunken behaviour.

Whether they vomited openly, whether or not they exposed themselves, has been debated. All five, however, were fined two weeks' wages.

Should we have been surprised? To give our footballers at large the benefit of the doubt I should say yes, though many and various have been other such incidents in recent times, while the dire examples of George Best and Paul Gascoigne, alcoholics both, and the calvary of Tony Adams and Paul Merson are all too well attested.

What astonished me about the frenetic boozing of the Chelsea group was that they, as highly-paid, highly-trained, leading professional footballers, could be prepared to jeopardise their physical well-being in so gross and crass a way.

Put morality aside for the moment. We are supposed to live in an era in which, thanks largely to the influx of foreign coaches, there has never been such emphasis in English football on diet and general physical well-being. Yet these leading players can go on the booze for FIVE HOURS!

We should, perhaps, get matters in perspective, even if such reported phenomena as Arsenal's pre-Wenger so-called Tuesday (boozing) club, Rangers' alleged regular indulgence and Manchester City's drinkers have been brought into sharp focus. British footballers have by and large *always* liked to drink. Had the exploited and underpaid pre-war players been as rich as the present crop of so-called stars no doubt they too would have gone off on five-hour binges.

I think of classic examples; not least one of the greatest centre-forwards of his time, and perhaps any other, little Hughie Gallacher, of Scotland and so many clubs. The story is told that in his Chelsea days, the members of a team due to play the following afternoon at Stamford Bridge were walking along the King's Road when a figure was thrown out of a pub and sprawled helpless on the pavement. Stepping over it, they were astonished to recognise Hughie Gallacher. The next day at Stamford Bridge, he tore their defence to pieces.

Then there was the Blackburn Rovers and England forward Arthur Rigby, who had slid down the scale to Clapton Orient. That peerless story-teller, Ted Crawford, who was his team-mate, told me of the time Rigby arrived hopelessly drunk at the Orient's then Lea Bridge Road ground.

Very quickly, they pushed him into the shower and turned it on; cold. The referee looked into the dressing-room. "Everything all right?"

"There's Rigby, sir," the players answered.

"What, is he drunk again?"

Crawford told Rigby to stay out on the left wing. He, at inside-left, would do all he could to keep the ball away from him. Finally, late in the first half, there was nothing to do but to push the ball out to Rigby. He ran in, hit it and scored, ultimately completing a hat-trick. Don't ask me what moral is to be drawn.

In former times, the players had the advantage of being protected by the football press, whose implicit vow of silence guaranteed drunken excesses and sexual antics would go unreported. Not now, when the lower end of the market tabloids trawl eagerly for such scandals and report them in lurid detail.

You wonder, in the present instance, if Chelsea and Leicester went far enough; not least as Everton had just transfer-listed Danny Cadamarteri for hitting a woman in a bar. I'm not suggesting such severe punishment should have been meted out to the Infamous Five, but some kind of suspension might surely have been appropriate.

Meanwhile, footballers who continue to booze should look at the examples of Gascoigne, the resuscitated Adams and the pitifully reduced Best.

# League Cup belongs in the past

THERE has been a great war of words between Henry Winter, football correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, and the chief executive of the Football League, David Burns. I am emphatically on the side of Winter.

He excoriated the Football League (alias Worthington) Cup as a massive irrelevance, eulogising the likelihood that when Arsenal and Manchester United met at Highbury in this season's competition, they would almost certainly field what amounted to reserve teams.

You might, I suppose, be sorry in a way since I well remember a dazzling League Cup (Milk? Coca-Cola? McDonald's?) tie between the two at Highbury some years ago when a then irresistible Lee Sharpe turned Lee Dixon inside out and United won 6-2.

But those days have gone for ever. Winter is quite right to insist that with the manic expansion of the so-called UEFA Champions League and other pressures, the League Cup is redundant, an anachronism.

Readers of this column may be aware that I have never had much time for it, believing that it was conceived in spite by the late Alan Hardaker, former secretary of the Football League, as a rival to the FA Cup, the very mother of all competitions.

Glory night...Sharpe wheels away after completing his hat-trick against Arsenal

The League Cup skulked in the shadows, the most marginal of affairs, until Hardaker had the brainwave of staging the Final at Wembley and somehow convincing UEFA, against all logic, to allow the winners to contest the Fairs or UEFA Cup. But if the League Cup, which Burns says is of vital financial importance to his members (the birth of the Greed Is Good League has much to do with that), it is still surely due to be consigned to the dustbin of history.

If that 6-2 game at Highbury lingers in the memory, so for such different reasons does the match when Chelsea came to Highbury with a full complement of players and thrashed what amounted to Arsenal's reserves.

## Ferguson's tactics go to pot

HOW right my friend and colleague Paul Gardner is on the subject of managers and tactics. Alex Ferguson, feted and revered, made no sense at all with the United teams that lost at Newcastle and Deportivo La Coruna, and only scraped through at home to Lille.

At Newcastle his feeble defence – no Stam, a struggling Blanc – let through four goals, and he reposted that United could have scored from nine chances!

A few days later Ferguson swung to the opposite pole, deploying a team, at *home*, that had only Van Nistelrooy up front and that squeaked through only at the death against modest Lille.

A 'reserve' team then thrashed Ipswich at home, only for a team similar to the one that faced Lille to concede the initiative and lose in Spain.

Explanations on a postcard, please.

# PFA funding? Wealthy players could pay more

Deal...Hill and League president Joe Richards

IT IS over 40 years now since, to my deep delight, the leader column of the *Sunday Times* most untypically exhorted the footballers to strike.

Delight, because, as the then football correspondent and sports columnist of the paper, I'd been fighting alongside Jimmy Hill, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, for the abolition of the iniquitous maximum wage. This limited even the most brilliant players to a mere £20 a week, which, even allowing for the runaway inflation since then, was a miserable reward.

Hill won his war, having run a superb campaign for which today's players, so highly paid and overpaid, should still be grateful. The maximum wage went, the first £100-a-week player emerged in Fulham's Johnny Haynes, and the caravan rolled on to the present days of young millionaires.

The players, I am sure, would indeed have gone on strike had Hill asked them.

Much more recently, I've found it hard to sympathise greatly with either side in the confrontation between the Greed Is Good League and the PFA. It's a little hard to whip up the same old enthusiasm for a union whose chief executive is paid a whopping £458,370 a year, as is Gordon Taylor, and which, as we know, shelled out the best part of £2m for that L S Lowry picture mentioned last month. While the GIG League could certainly afford to pay more from its TV money, then so could the supremely wealthy players.

This is not to say that I haven't the sincerest sympathy for indigent, unemployed and crippled ex-footballers, who deserve all the help they can reasonably be given. I will never forget visiting a sick and tearful Eddie Hapgood, my boyhood hero as left-back and captain of England and Arsenal, to find that when he had turned to the Gunners for help, they had offered him thirty quid.

Yet somehow, as the insults flew and the battle raged recently in the dispute over the PFA's cut from the latest TV deal, one hoped for compromise, not strikes.

# From the archives...

# November 1966

THE magazine covers during the early years of *World Soccer* were less than likely to have a link to any article in their respective issue. The November 1966 cover is a good example, featuring as it did Len Badger leading out Sheffield United to play Sheffield Wednesday, though neither the player nor the game merited a mention inside.

In fact, there was a somewhat gratuitous streak to the picture selection in the issue as a whole. Take the alarming shot of now Chelsea chairman Ken Bates in beachwear, though at least his name did crop up in the accompanying article as his success in charge of a revived Oldham Athletic was noted.

Ironically, Alan Ball, the man most deserving of illustration given the amount of copy he engendered, was not pictured. Philip Rising called Ball "possibly England's most dynamic footballer" in a profile subtitled 'Perpetual motion', while Brian Glanville referred to his "astonishing performance" in the World Cup Final of the previous summer.

Ball, the 'Clitheroe Kid', had just moved to Everton from Blackpool for a weighty £110,000, but Rising had no doubt that he would make a success of it.

He mentioned the assurance with which Ball had handled his baptism in the Blackpool first team – despite the pressure of wearing Stanley Matthews' No7 shirt – with Blackpool beating Liverpool 2-1 in front of 58,000 fans after Ball had "as usual, run himself into the ground". In fact, Liverpool must have been tiring of Ball since, as Rising reported, he scored twice against them in one of his earliest games for Everton.

Glanville, meanwhile, credited Ball with "demolishing" West Germany's Karl-Heinz Schnellinger in the 1966 Final by "playing as a winger", putting to the sword the notion that England under Alf Ramsey were always 'wingless wonders'.

The issue's other notable articles included profiles of DWS, who the year before had become the first Dutch club to turn fully professional, and Bohemians of Prague, renowned for their many changes of name.

As Tony Pullein reported, the latter were enjoying something of a revival, having just returned to the Czechoslovakian top division and reached the previous season's Cup semi-finals. Their failure to reach the Final, going out on penalties to Dukla Prague, was ultimately down to veteran outside-right Frantisek Mottl.

In those days in Czechoslovakia it was clearly customary for a single player to take all his side's spot-kicks in a shoot-out, and while Dukla's Vacensky converted four of his five penalties, "Mottl was overcome with nerves. Two of his penalties hit the post, one went wide, another was saved...and only one found the target".

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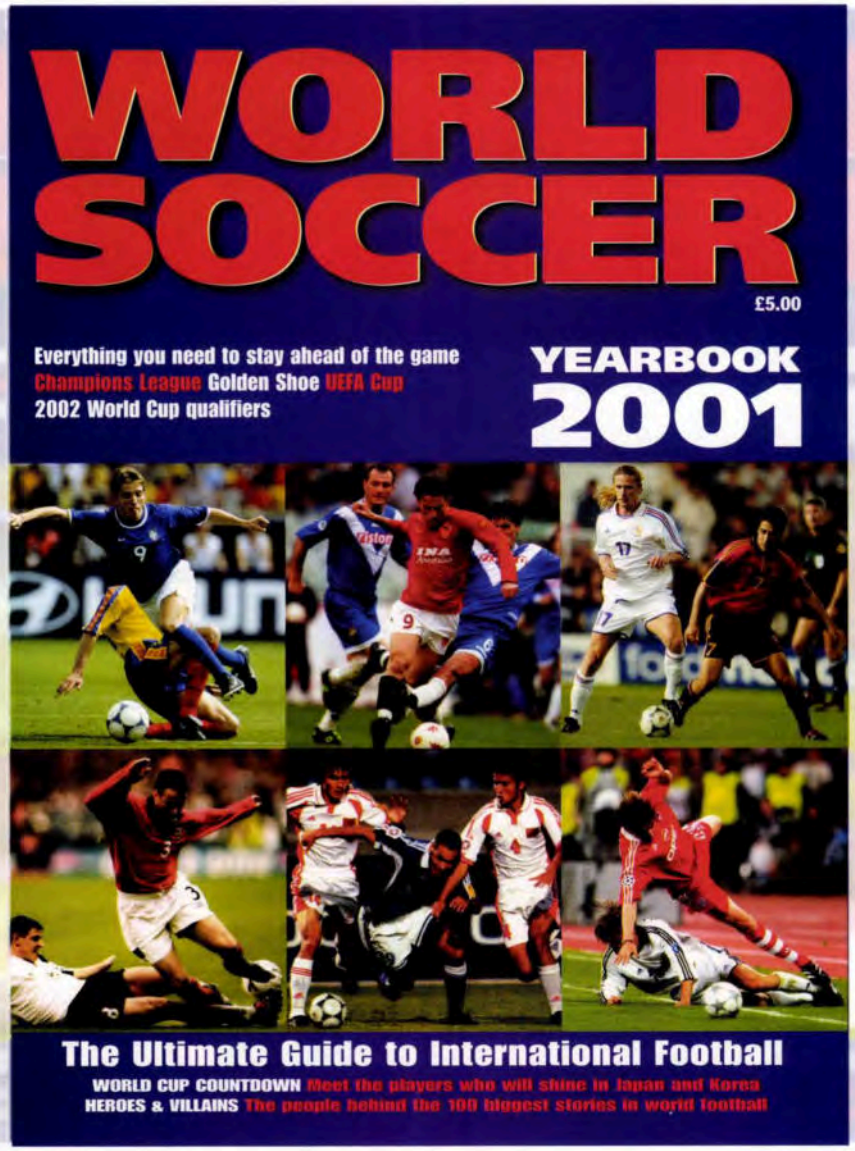


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